SMASH! POW! IT'S FANTASTIC

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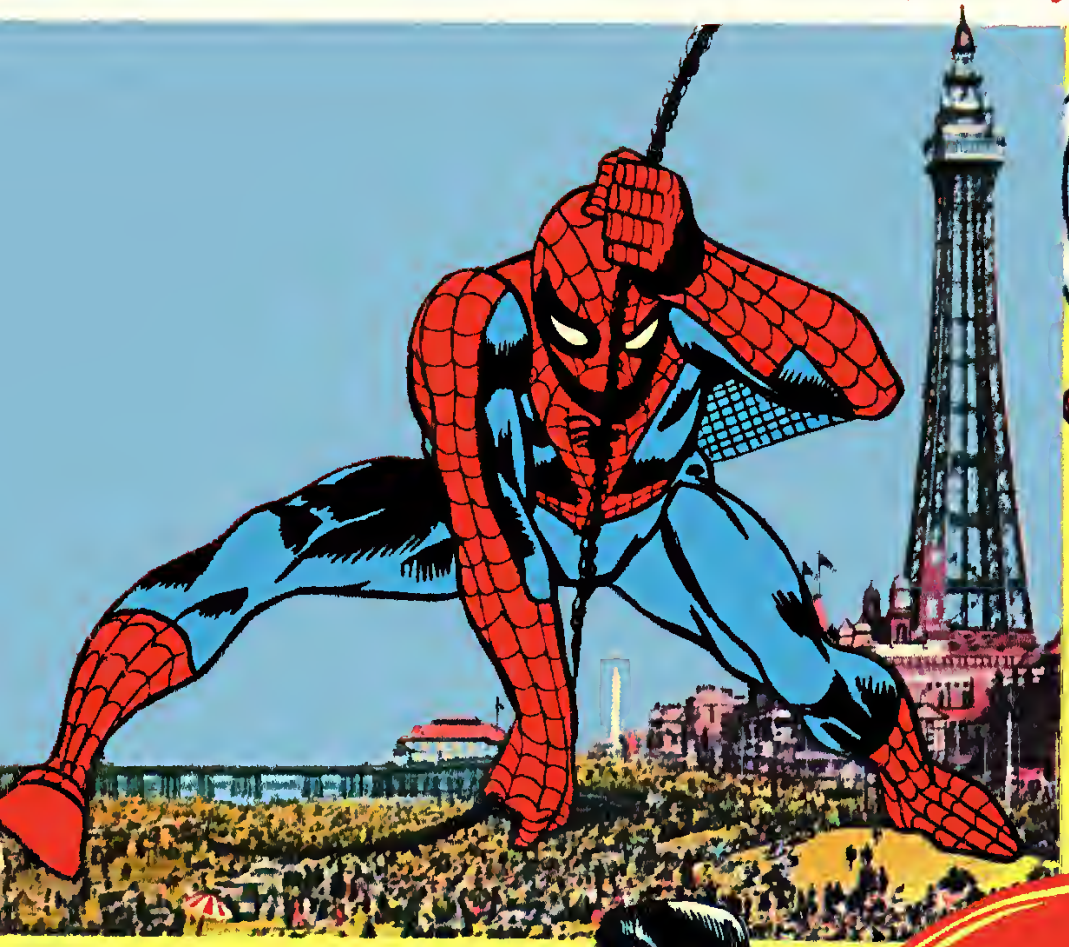
A POWER COMIC

SUMMER SPECIAL



THE X-MEN
THE INCREDIBLE TEENAGE MUTANTS

SPIDERMAN
MEETS Dr. STRANGE

DAREDEVIL
THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!

A Treasure-Store of Power Style Super-Hero Action and Laughs—containing the best of FANTASTIC, SMASH and POW weekly!

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WELCOME! Welcome to the wondrous super-world of super-heroes! . . . to the world of Thor, Daredevil, Spider-man, The Torch and other famed adventurers from FANTASTIC, SMASH and POW! Welcome, too, to the laughter-worlds of The Swots & Blots, The Cloak and Sammy Shrink. Here, to add still more sunshine to your summer is thrilling action . . . rib-tickling humour . . . pin-ups and puzzles. All profoundly penned in the style of The House of Power!
In other words, have fun! For it is here to be had! Now we wish you a mountains-of-pleasure journey through the pages of your SUMMER SPECIAL . . . a journey that begins as. . .

FANTASTIC SUMMER SPECIAL, printed in Great Britain by Southwark Offset Ltd., 25, Lavington St., London, S.E.1 and published by Odhams Press Ltd., Long Acre, London, W.C.2. Sole agents for Australia and New Zealand, Gordon & Gotch (A/sia) Ltd.; South Africa, Central News Agency Ltd CONDITIONS OF SALE: This periodical shall not, without the written consent of the Publishers, be lent, resold or hired out at more than the recommended selling price as shown on the cover, or otherwise disposed of in any unauthorised cover by way of trade, or affixed to or as part of any publication or advertising, literary or pictorial matter whatsoever.

THERE ARE EIGHT MILLION STORIES IN THE BIG CITY, BUT YOU'VE NEVER SEEN ANY LIKE THIS ONE! AS THE SHADES OF NIGHT BEGIN TO FALL, A SILENT FIGURE PROWLS OVERHEAD! THUS DOES YOUR FRIENDLY NEIGHBOURHOOD SPIDER-MAN MAKE HIS APPOINTED ROUNDS...!
EVERYTHING IS QUIET SO FAR! I MIGHT AS WELL HAVE STAYED HOME WITH A GOOD BOOK!...OR EVEN A BAD ONE!

WELL, I MIGHT AS WELL LOOK AT THE BRIGHT SIDE! AT LEAST THIS IS STOPPING ME FROM BEING A "STAY-AT HOME"!
MAYBE I CAN HELP A LITTLE OLD LADY CROSS THE STREET, SO THE EVENING WON'T BE A COMPLETE WASTE!

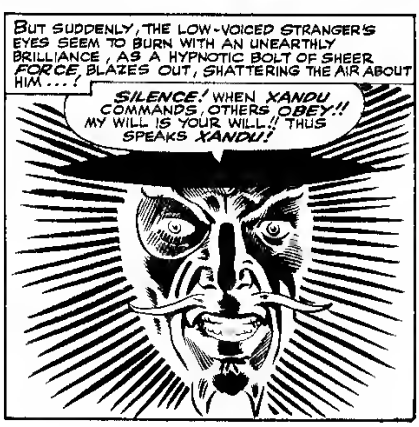
BUT, IN ANOTHER PART OF TOWN, A SITUATION IS ABOUT TO DEVELOP WHICH WILL SOON EMBROIL THE COSTUMED TEENAGER IN ONE OF THE MOST FANTASTIC BATTLES OF HIS LIFE! LET'S WATCH THIS TALL, SILENT STRANGER AS HE WALKS TOWARD...THE UNKNOWN...!
A TYPICAL BRUTISH BRAWL! PERHAPS HERE I SHALL FIND WHAT I SEEK!

TWO SAVAGE BULLIES! POWERFUL...ROUGH... PROUD OF THEIR STRENGTH... AND SORELY LACKING IN INTELLIGENCE! THEY WILL DO JUST FINE!
WE SAID WE COULD LICK ANY MAN IN THE PLACE... AND WE MEANT IT!
WHEW!... IT WOULD TAKE A REGIMENT TO STOP THOSE TWO! THEY'RE LIKE A COUPLE OF TIGERS!

SECONDS LATER, AFTER THE FESTIVITIES HAVE ENDED...
YOU TWO! COME HERE! I HAVE AN OFFER TO MAKE YOU!
GET LOST, CREEP! CRAWL BACK INTO THE WOODWORK!
THAT WAS TOO EASY! WE SHOULD'VE HAD ANOTHER DOZEN GUYS TO TOSS AROUND!

HEY! ARE YOU STILL AROUND? WE TOLD YOU TO GET LOST, DIDN'T WE?
YOU FOOLS! IT IS I WHO GIVE THE ORDERS! IT IS YOU WHO SHALL OBEY THEM!
I HAVE DECIDED THAT YOU SHALL BOTH WORK FOR ME!

WORK?? HEY, DID YOU HEAR THAT AWFUL WORD HE USED?? I WONDER WHAT IT MEANS?!!
HE'S ASKIN' FOR A FAT LIP...AND HE'LL GET IT... SOON AS I STOP LAUGHING!!


BUT SUDDENLY, THE LOW-VOICED STRANGER'S EYES SEEM TO BURN WITH AN UNEARTHLY BRILLIANCE, AS A HYPNOTIC BOLT OF SHEER FORCE BLAZES OUT, SHATTERING THE AIR ABOUT HIM...!
SILENCE! WHEN XANDU COMMANDS, OTHERS OBEY!! MY WILL IS YOUR WILL!! THUS SPEAKS XANDU!

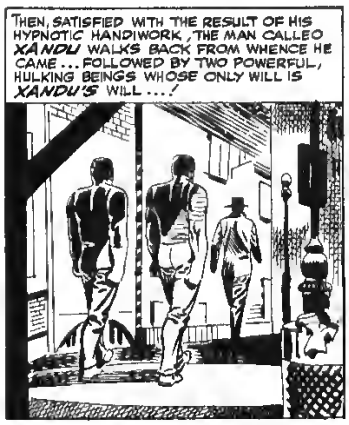
YOUR-WILL-IS-OUR-WILL!
XANDU-MUST-BE-OBEYED!

I SHALL GIVE YOU POWER, GREATER THAN YOU HAVE EVER DREAMED OF! AND, IN RETURN, YOU SHALL SERVE ONLY ME!

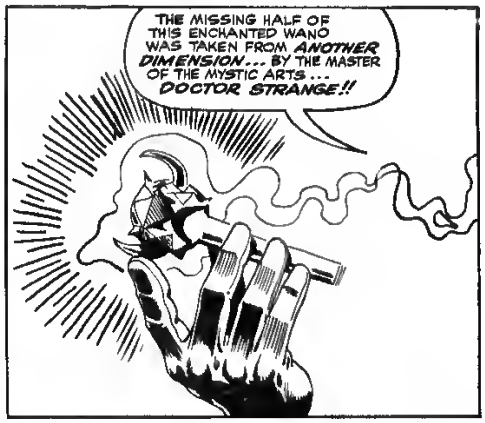
UNDER MY HYPNOTIC SPELL, YOU WILL FEEL NO PAIN...YOU WILL FEAR NO FOE!! AND NOW, TO TEST MY CONTROL OVER YOU...!

STRIKE... WITH ALL YOUR MIGHT! GOOO! GOOD!
YOU OBEYED INSTANTLY! AND UNDER MY SPELL, HE FELT NOTHING! THE BLOW DID NOT AFFECT HIM!

NOW, YOU! YOUR HAND IS A BAR OF STEEL! STRIKE THE HEAVY OAK COUNTER TOP... SHATTER IT WITH ONE BLOW OF YOUR STEEL FIST! THUS SPEAKS XANDU!
THUS-SPEAKS-XANDU!


THEN, SATISFIED WITH THE RESULT OF HIS HYPNOTIC HANDIWORK, THE MAN CALLED XANDU WALKS BACK FROM WHENCE HE CAME... FOLLOWED BY TWO POWERFUL, HULKING BEINGS WHOSE ONLY WILL IS XANDU'S WILL...!

MOMENTS LATER, IN A STRANGE, CANDLE-LIT CHAMBER, XANDU HOLDS ALOFT A SHIMMERING, GLEAMING OBJECT..!
AT LAST! I HAVE TWO SERVANTS WHO WILL OBTAIN THE OTHER HALF OF THIS WAND FOR ME!
FOR, HE WHO POSSESSES BOTH HALVES OF THE WAND OF WATOOMB, POSSESSES THE GREATEST POWER OF ALL!


THE MISSING HALF OF THIS ENCHANTED WAND WAS TAKEN FROM ANOTHER DIMENSION... BY THE MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS... DOCTOR STRANGE!!

BUT, ONCE I WREST IT FROM HIM, IT IS I, XANDU, WHO WILL BE MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS!! INDEED, I SHALL BE MASTER OF ALL!

NOW, GO, MY UNWITTING SLAVES! IT IS YOU WHO SHALL DEFEAT DR. STRANGE FOR ME!
WHILE I GUIDE YOU ON YOUR QUEST... THROUGH THE POWER OF MY HYPNOTIC EYES!

AND NOW, AS YOU MIGHT EXPECT, WE TURN TO DR. STRANGE, AS HE SILENTLY STUDIES A SACRED SCROLL IN HIS SHADOWY SANCTUM SANCTORUM...!
ON THE SURFACE, THIS IS AN ANCIENT RECIPE FOR BORSHT... BUT, IF I READ BETWEEN THE FADED LINES...

SUDDENLY, HIS KEEN EARS DETECT THE SOUND OF DOUBLE DOORS SLAMMING OPEN, AND THEN...
INTRUDERS! INVADING MY PRIVACY! THEY SHALL PAY DEARLY FOR THIS AFFRONT!

ONE SIMPLE SPELL WILL SERVE TO... NO!
MY SPELL IS USELESS! THEIR MINDS ARE BLANK... EMPTY! THEY ARE UNDER THE CONTROL OF ANOTHER!! BUT... WHO??

I MUST GAIN TIME... TIME TO PONDER THIS PUZZLE!
I'LL CREATE A MULTI-FIGURED ILLUSION... TO DISTRACT THEM... TO KEEP THEM FROM GETTING WITHIN STRIKING DISTANCE OF ME!

BUT XANDU, WHO IS PRESENT THROUGH THE POWER OF HIS HYPNOTIC EYES, CAN DETECT THE TRUE DOCTOR STRANGE... AS HE GUIDES HIS TWO HUMAN CATS-PAWS...!
MY ILLUSION DOES NOT FOOL THEM!

THERE IS NO TIME FOR FURTHER EVASIVE ACTION! I MUST DO BATTLE! BUT THEIR STRENGTH IS INCONCEIVABLE!!
...UHHHH!

WITHIN SECONDS, THE VALIANT MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS IS DOWNED... LAPSING INTO UNCONSCIOUSNESS, AS HIS ENCHANTED AMULET PROTECTS HIS STILLED FIGURE FROM FURTHER HARM!
WELL DONE! BUT NOW HE IS OF NO FURTHER INTEREST TO US! IT IS THE WAND! YOU MUST FIND THE OTHER HALF OF THE WAND OF WATOOMB!

IT MUST BE LOCKED SOMEWHERE! SMASH OPEN EVERY CABINET UNTIL IT IS FOUND! THIS SPEAKS XANDU!
WHAM

WAIT! SEARCH NO LONGER! THE FATES HAVE SMILED UPON ME! THERE IT IS! WE'VE FOUND IT!

AND NOW, FOR THOSE WHO MAY THINK WE'VE FORGOTTEN WHOSE STORY THIS IS SUPPOSED TO BE, WE OFFER PROOF THAT WE DO REMEMBER... BECAUSE HERE COMES SPIDEY NOW!
THOSE TWO FIGURES, STEALING OUT OF A SKYLIGHT... OBVIOUSLY BURGLARS! AND YET, THEY SOMEHOW SEEM LIKE... SLEEP-WALKERS!!

I KNEW IF I SWUNG AROUND LONG ENOUGH I'D FIND SOMETHING TO BREAK THE MONOTONY!
STAY WHERE YOU ARE, BOYS! I'M IN THE MOOD FOR A SUMMIT CONFERENCE!

IT'S SPIDER-MAN!! BUT WE'VE COME TOO FAR TO BE STOPPED NOW! HE CANNOT HURT YOU! SMASH HIM!

HEY! ARE YOU GUYS KIDDING?!! TAKING A POKE AT ME IS LIKE INSTANT ANNIHILATION!

BUT I GUESS YOU WANT TO BE ABLE TO BRAG TO YOUR GRANDCHILDREN THAT YOU WERE ONCE KNOCKED OUT BY SPIDEY... SO HERE'S YOUR CHANCE!

SAY! WHAT GIVES? IT'S LIKE HITTING A STONE WALL! THEY DON'T EVEN FEEL IT! I MUST BE SLIPPING!

BUT I KNOW MY PUNCHES HAVE THE SAME OL' WHAMEROO IN 'EM! SO IT ISN'T ME! IT'S ...THEM!
I'M FIGHTIN' A COUPLE OF WALKING POWER-HOUSES!

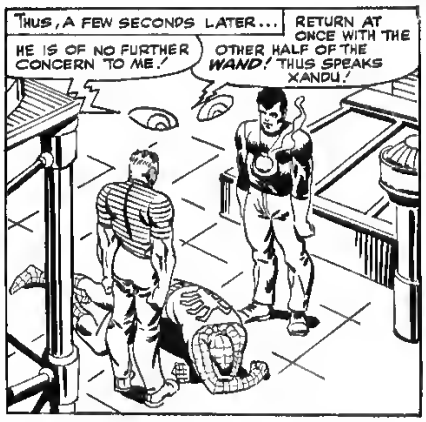
THAT'S IT! KEEP SWINGING! HE CAN'T KEEP DODGING FOUR TIRELESS, THRASHING, POUNDING FISTS!
THEY CAUGHT ME FLAT-FOOTED! I'M OFF-BALANCE ... CAN'T GET AWAY!

WHOOFF!
I'LL NEVER COMPLAIN ABOUT CATCHING JAY-WALKERS AGAIN!

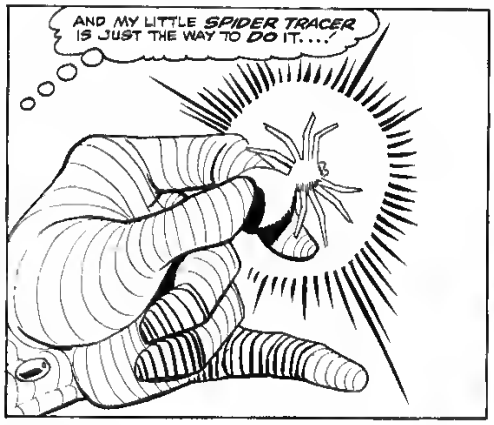
I'VE GOT TO GET SOME TIME TO CATCH MY BREATH! A LITTLE DOSE OF QUICK-STICK WEBBING OUGHT TO SLOW HIM DOWN!

THAT WEBBING IS LIKE TISSUE-PAPER! YOUR STRENGTH CAN TEAR IT WITH EASE! RIP IT APART... NOW!

THAT SINKS IT! I'M NOT FIGHTING ANY ORDINARY HOODS!
THESE TWO LOVEBIRDS HAVE SUPER-STRENGTH... AND ARE IMMUNE TO PAIN! ...UGH!...I WISH I WERE!!
EVEN MY OWN SPIDER-STRENGTH CAN'T TAKE A BEATING LIKE THIS FOREVER! I.. I'M STARTING TO BLACK OUT... EVERYTHING'S SPINNING AROUND...!


THUS, A FEW SECONDS LATER...
HE IS OF NO FURTHER CONCERN TO ME!
RETURN AT ONCE WITH THE OTHER HALF OF THE WAND! THUS SPEAKS XANDU!

THEY'RE LEAVING! BUT...I CAN'T LET IT END THIS WAY! I MUST MAKE SURE. I'LL BE ABLE TO FIND THEM AGAIN...!

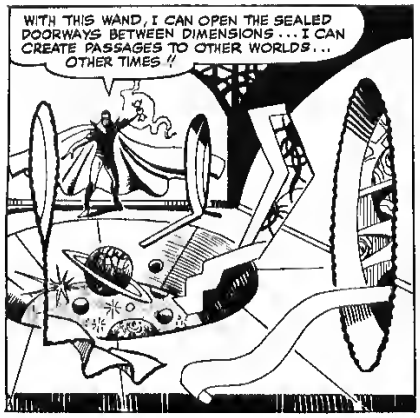

AND MY LITTLE SPIDER TRACER IS JUST THE WAY TO DO IT...!

I'VE GOT TO BE ABLE TO REACH THEM... I'VE JUST GOT TO...!

...DID IT! NOW...NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS... AFTER I'VE RESTED UP... I'LL BE ABLE TO FIND THEM... IN TIME FOR ROUND TWO!

AND, MOMENTS LATER...
THE OTHER HALF OF THE WAND OF WATOOMB!! AT LAST!

JOINING THE TWO GLOWING HALVES WITH TREMBLING FINGERS, THE EVIL XANDU FINALLY HOLDS THE COMPLETE OBJECT IN ONE HAND - FEELING A NEW SURGE OF SHEER POWER PULSATING THROUGH THE VERY FIBRES OF HIS BEING!!
IT'S THE GREATEST SOURCE OF MYSTIC POWER EVER POSSESSED BY ONE MAN...AND IT'S MINE... MINE!!


WITH THIS WAND, I CAN OPEN THE SEALED DOORWAYS BETWEEN DIMENSIONS ... I CAN CREATE PASSAGES TO OTHER WORLDS ... OTHER TIMES !!

I CAN SEE ANY PLACE ... ANY OBJECT ... ANY PERSON I THINK OF !!
THERE IS DR. STRANGE, STILL UNCONSCIOUS !! EVEN HE CAN NO LONGER THREATEN ME ... NOW THAT THE WAND OF WATOOMB IS MINE!

WITH ONE SINGLE THOUGHT I CAN DESTROY THAT STATUE BEHIND HIM!
NOTHING IS SAFE FROM ME, SO LONG AS I CAN CONJURE UP ITS VISION WITHIN THE SCENE MY WAND CREATES!

SLOWLY, INEXORABLY, RELENTLESSLY, I SHALL DESTROY MY ENEMIES, ONE BY ONE, UNTIL NONE REMAIN TO DEFY ME!
AND DR. STRANGE SHALL BE THE FIRST TO BECOME MY VICTIM!

BUT, SO ENGROSSED IS XANDU IN HIS OWN SINISTER PLANS, THAT HE FAILS TO NOTICE THE DRAMATIC FIGURE WHO SILENTLY SLITHERS ALONG THE WALL OUTSIDE ...
A DABBLER IN BLACK MAGIC! I SHOULD HAVE GUESSED THAT SOME SUCH POWER WAS BEHIND THE TWO WHO FOUGHT ME!

THEN, AS THE AMAZING WEB-SPINNER DRAWS NEARER ...
WHA ...? SPIDER-MAN!!
CONGRATULATIONS! YOU JUST SAID THE MAGIC WORD!
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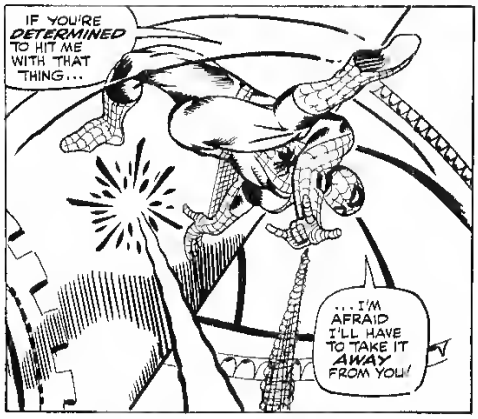
FOOL! YOU DIDN'T KNOW WHEN YOU WERE WELL-OFF!
THAT'S A FAILING WE SPIDER-MEN HAVE!


IF YOU'RE DETERMINED TO HIT ME WITH THAT THING ...
... I'M AFRAID I'LL HAVE TO TAKE IT AWAY FROM YOU!

CAUGHT BY SURPRISE BY SPIDEY'S SUDDEN MANOEUVRE XANDU DROPS THE ENCHANTED WAND AS THE QUICK-STICK WEBBING COVERS HIS EYES, OBSCURING HIS VISION...!
MY EYES! I ... I CAN'T SEE!

BUT, IN THE NEXT SPLIT-SECOND, XANDU LASHES OUT WITH A MIGHTY SPELL ... AN INCANTATION OF SUCH FORCE AND POWER THAT THE VERY WALLS BEGIN TO SHAKE ...!
DEMONS OF DARKNESS! IN THE NAME OF SATANNISH! BY THE FLAMES OF FALTINE! LET SPIDER-MAN VANISH!

IT.. IT ISN'T POSSIBLE!! AND YET.. UNLESS I'VE LOST MY MIND... I'M ACTUALLY FADING AWAY!
THERE! I FREED MYSELF OF HIS WEBBING JUST IN TIME!
SPIDER-MAN SHALL NEVER INTERFERE WITH ME AGAIN!

DON'T BET ON IT, BRIGHT EYES! IF I'VE GOT TO GO, I'M TAKING YOUR LITTLE GIZMO WITH ME!
NO! STOP! YOU MUSTN'T!

PETER PARKER AS.. SPIDER-MAN

MEANWHILE, A STARTLED SPIDER-MAN FINDS HIMSELF IN A PLACE WHICH COULD SERVE AS A STAGE SETTING FOR ALICE IN WONDERLAND...!

I..I DON'T HAVE AN IDEA WHERE I AM! BUT ONE THING IS FOR SURE...

..IT'S GOING TO TAKE MORE THAN A PENNY BUS RIDE TO GET ME BACK TO MY HOME AND AUNT MAY!

ANYWAY, I'M GLAD I GRABBED THIS CRAZY WAND! IF THERE'S ANY CHANCE OF FINDING ME, XANDU IS SURE TO COME AFTER ME NOW!

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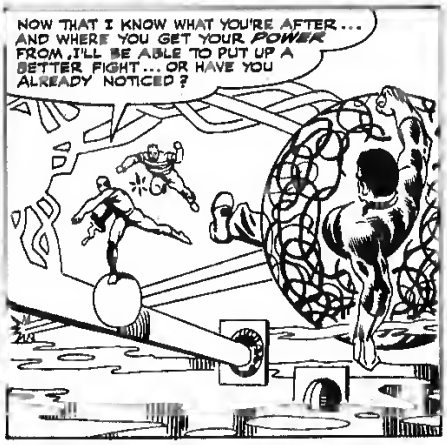
WELL, WELL! HERE COME THE TWO HAPPINESS BOYS! XANDU CERTAINLY DIDN'T WASTE ANY TIME!


NOW THAT I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE AFTER... AND WHERE YOU GET YOUR POWER FROM, I'LL BE ABLE TO PUT UP A BETTER FIGHT... OR HAVE YOU ALREADY NOTICED?

I'LL HAVE TO KEEP THIS UP UNTIL THEY HEAD FOR HOME, AND THEN TRY TO FOLLOW THEM!

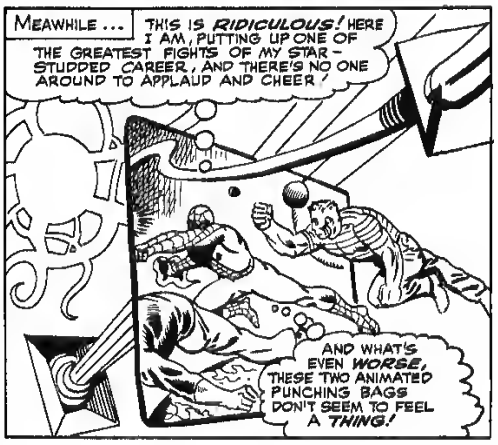
AT LEAST YOU GUYS DON'T TRY TO TALK A FELLA TO DEATH LIKE SOME OTHERS I'VE FOUGHT!

MEANWHILE, IN HIS MYSTIC RETREAT NOT SO VERY FAR AWAY, DR. STRANGE FINALLY RECOVERS CONSCIOUSNESS...
MY HALF OF THE ENCHANTED WAND OF WATOOMB IS GONE! SO THAT'S WHAT THEY WERE AFTER!
BUT IT MUST BE FOUND! ITS POWER IS TOO GREAT TO BE ALLOWED TO FALL INTO OTHER HANDS!

THUS, THE POWER OF MY AMULET SHALL GUIDE ME TO THE ONE I SEEK!

I SHALL TAKE MY MAGIC CLOAK OF LEVITATION AND FOLLOW, NO MATTER WHERE THE TRAIL MAY LEAD!

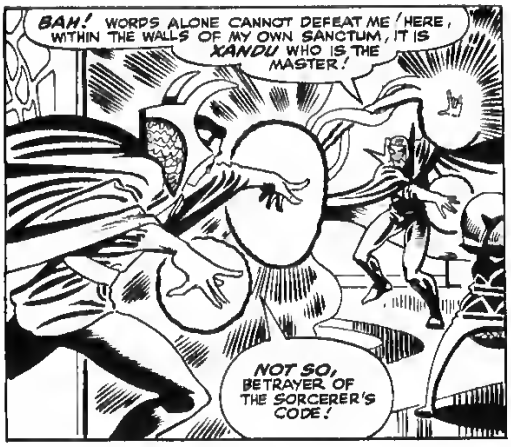
THEN, IN THE NAME OF THE ALL-SEEING EYE OF AGAMOTTO, THE WAND SHALL BE RETRIEVED, THOUGH THE VIPERS OF VALTORR THEMSELVES MAY BLOCK THE WAY!


MEANWHILE...
THIS IS RIDICULOUS! HERE I AM, PUTTING UP ONE OF THE GREATEST FIGHTS OF MY STAR-STUDDED CAREER, AND THERE'S NO ONE AROUND TO APPLAUD AND CHEER!
AND WHAT'S EVEN WORSE, THESE TWO ANIMATED PUNCHING BAGS DON'T SEEM TO FEEL A THING!

KEEP FIGHTING!! HE HAS TO WEAKEN SOON! GOOD! GOOD! YOU ALMOST SEIZED IT THEN!

ONCE THEY RETRIEVE IT AGAIN, I SHALL BRING IT BACK FROM THE BEYOND, AND SUPREME POWER SHALL BE MINE ONCE MORE!

NEVER, MAN OF EVIL! NOT WHILE DR. STRANGE LIVES!
YOU! YOU FOUND ME! BUT... HOW??
MANY ARE THE POWERS OF THE MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS!


BAH! WORDS ALONE CANNOT DEFEAT ME! HERE, WITHIN THE WALLS OF MY OWN SANCTUM, IT IS XANDU WHO IS THE MASTER!
NOT SO, BETRAYER OF THE SORCERER'S CODE!

WITHOUT THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE IN YOUR FAVOUR, SEE HOW EASILY I SHATTER YOUR CRUDE, DEFENSIVE SPELLS!
IT IS TRUE! ALONE AND UNAIDED, MY POWER IS NO MATCH FOR HIS!

SURRENDER NOW, I COMMAND YOU! SOON, THE FURY OF MY ATTACK SHALL BE SO STRONG, THAT NOTHING CAN STOP IT!

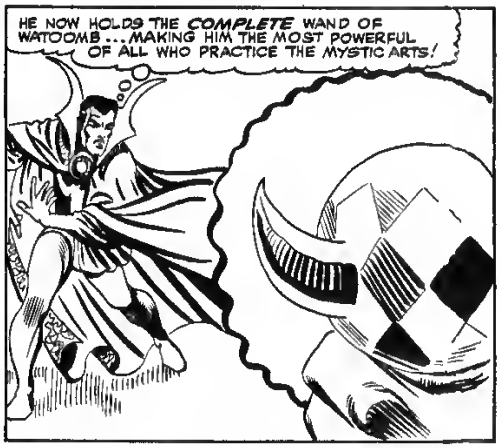
I MUST DO AS HE ORDERS, OR... NO!
THEY ARE HERE! I AM SAVED! NOW I AM THE MASTER AGAIN!

I HAD TO LET THEM GET ME, IN ORDER FOR THEM TO BRING ME BACK! BUT NOW... I'VE GOT TO FIND A WAY TO ESCAPE ANEW!

WHAT HAVE WE HERE? THERE IS MORE TO THIS AFFAIR THAN FIRST I SUSPECTED!
PERFECT! STRANGE IS MOMENTARILY STARTLED! I MUST MOVE QUICKLY, WHILE I CAN!

AND NOW, I SHALL RELIEVE YOU OF THAT WAND... FOR THE LAST TIME!
DISPOSE OF HIM NOW, MY WITLESS ONES! HE HAS SERVED HIS PURPOSE!

OH, WELL... HERE WE GO AGAIN!
AS FOR ME, WITH THE AID OF MY ENCHANTED PRIZE, I SHALL DESTROY DR. STRANGE... FOREVER!


HE NOW HOLDS THE COMPLETE WAND OF WATOOMB... MAKING HIM THE MOST POWERFUL OF ALL WHO PRACTICE THE MYSTIC ARTS!

EVEN MY STRONGEST DEFENCES ARE AS NOTHING TO THE AWESOME FORCE WHICH XANDU NOW CONTROLS!

I CANNOT DO BATTLE LIKE THIS! I MUST FIND ANOTHER MEANS... IF I AM TO ENDURE!
YOUR MOMENTS ARE NUMBERED NOW! VICTORY IS MINE!

HE THINKS ME DEFEATED! I MUST LEAVE MY PHYSICAL BODY, AND RETURN IN MY ECTOPLASMIC SPIRIT FORM! THEN, PERHAPS THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE WILL FAVOUR ME!

HE USES HIS NEW POWER TO SEARCH FOR ME! I MUST ACT BEFORE HE FINDS MY BODY!
I MUST FIND THE ONE CALLED SPIDER-MAN! PERHAPS, WITH HIS AID, WE MAY STILL PREVAIL!

HE FIGHTS VALIANTLY! BUT, EVEN HE CANNOT REALIZE THAT HIS FOES ARE MERELY HUMAN MACHINES... COMPLETELY UNBEATABLE WHILE UNDER XANDU'S CONTROL!

I MUST PLANT A THOUGHT IN HIS MIND... A THOUGHT WHICH CAN SAVE HIM!
THE WIRES BEHIND YOU... GRAB THEM! LET THEM TOUCH AT THE PROPER SECOND...!

AT THE URGING OF DR. STRANGE, THE LIGHTNING-FAST REFLEXES OF SPIDER-MAN... THE BRILLIANT BRAIN OF PETER PARKER... GRASP THE THOUGHT IN A SPLIT-SECOND, AND THEN...!
HE DID IT! HE GAVE THEM A POWERFUL ELECTRIC SHOCK JUST AS THEY CLOSED IN FOR THE FINAL ASSAULT!

HEY, WHAT GIVES? WHAT'S GOIN ON HERE?
SEARCH ME!? HOW'D WE GET HERE? AND... WHY AM I SO BLAMED TIRED?
IT WAS THE ONLY WAY TO RELEASE THEM FROM XANDU'S SPELL! THEY WILL NOT TROUBLE YOU AGAIN!

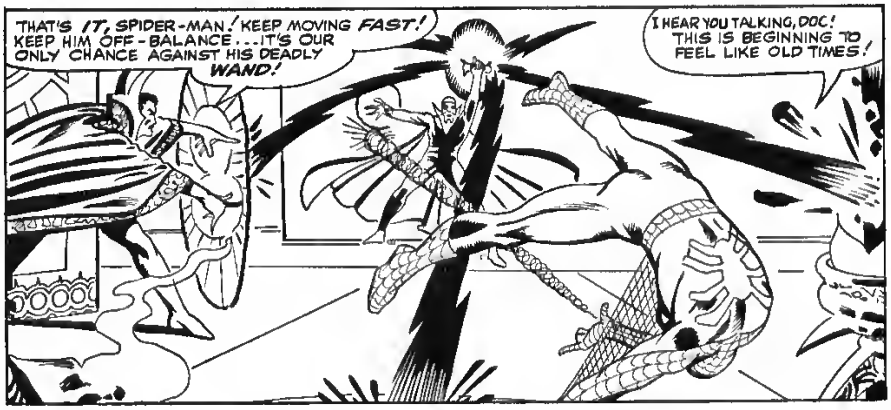
SPIDER-MAN IS NO MATCH FOR THE MYSTIC POWER OF THE EVIL ONE! I MUST FIND A WAY TO AID HIM FURTHER!
I'M STILL NOT SURE WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT, BUT IF THAT CREED XANDU IS BEHIND IT, THEN HE'S FOR ME!

FIRST, I MUST ASSUME MY PHYSICAL SELF AGAIN... WITHOUT A SECOND TO SPARE!
IF I DO NOT REACH SPIDER-MAN'S SIDE IN TIME, IT COULD BE FATAL!

OKAY, XANDU! NOW IT'S JUST YOU AND ME!!
BUT NOT FOR LONG! WHEN I FINISH USING MY MYSTIC WAND, IT SHALL BE ONLY ME!!

BUT AT THAT SPLIT-SECOND, ANOTHER SPELL IS HURLED BETWEEN THE TWO ANTAGONISTS!
THIS CAN ONLY BE THE WORK OF STRANGE! HE STILL LIVES!

MY POWER IS THE GREATEST! AND YET, I AM CONFUSED! BETWEEN SPIDER-MAN'S WEB... AND THE SPELLS OF DR. STRANGE... I DO NOT KNOW WHERE TO TURN FIRST!!

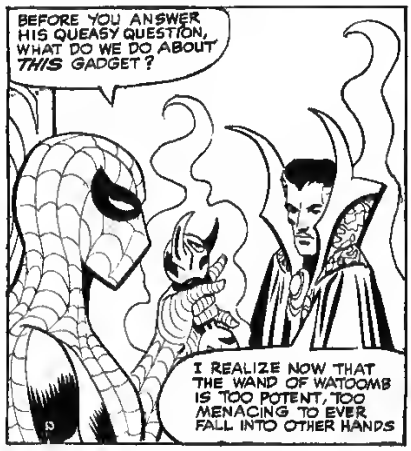

THAT'S IT, SPIDER-MAN! KEEP MOVING FAST! KEEP HIM OFF-BALANCE... IT'S OUR ONLY CHANCE AGAINST HIS DEADLY WAND!
I HEAR YOU TALKING, DOC! THIS IS BEGINNING TO FEEL LIKE OLD TIMES!

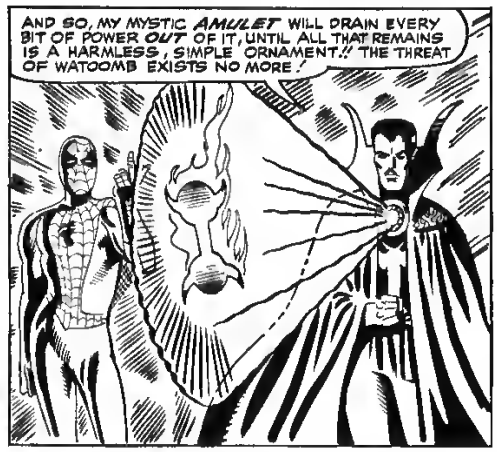
GOOD SHOT! YOU CAUGHT HIS LEGS! HE'S TOTTERING... THIS IS OUR CHANCE!
IT ISN'T FAIR! I-I HAVEN'T TIME TO THINK!

MY HAND! STRANGE CAUGHT IT IN A SPELL! I DROPPED THE WAND! OH NO... NO!
WITHOUT IT, I'LL BE LOST!

I'VE GOT TO GET IT BACK! SO LONG AS I HAVE IT, I... THAT WEBBING!! I CAN'T MOVE MY HANDS!
HWAP!

STAY WHERE YOU ARE, XANDU! THE CHARADE IS ENDED! YOUR POWER HAS VANISHED!
WHA.. WHAT WILL BECOME OF ME!?


BEFORE YOU ANSWER HIS QUEASY QUESTION, WHAT DO WE DO ABOUT THIS GADGET?
I REALIZE NOW THAT THE WAND OF WATOOMB IS TOO POTENT, TOO MENACING TO EVER FALL INTO OTHER HANDS


AND SO, MY MYSTIC AMULET WILL DRAIN EVERY BIT OF POWER OUT OF IT, UNTIL ALL THAT REMAINS IS A HARMLESS, SIMPLE ORNAMENT!! THE THREAT OF WATOOMB EXISTS NO MORE!

AND NOW, BY THE HOARY HOSTS OF HOGGOTH, I ORDER YOU TO UNLOCK YOUR BRAIN, SO THAT I MAY LEARN ALL THAT EXISTS WITHIN YOUR PAST...!

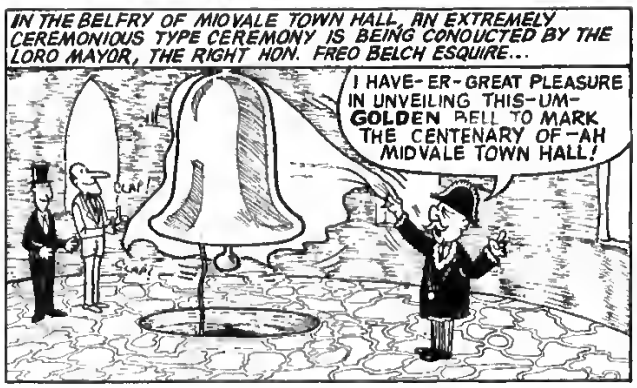
AHH, IT IS REVEALED TO ME!! YOU WERE A STUDENT OF THE MYSTIC ARTS! YOU LEARNED OF WATOOMB'S WAND, AND OF ITS POWER! YOU STOLE YOUR HALF, AND ONCE YOU KNEW THAT I HAD THE OTHER HALF, YOU PLOTTED TO SEIZE IT FROM ME...!

NOW, I GRANT YOU THE GIFT OF TOTAL SLEEP! WHEN YOU AWAKE, YOUR MEMORY SHALL BE CLEANSED OF ALL THAT HAS HAPPENED... YOUR EVIL AMBITION SHALL HAVE FADED FOREVER! IN THE NAME OF THE OMNIPOTENT OSHTUR, I SO DECLARE IT!

YOU HAVE ACCREDITED YOURSELF WELL THIS NIGHT, COSTUMED ONE! THE FRIENDSHIP OF DR. STRANGE WILL BE YOURS, WHATEVER BEFALLS!
MUCH OBLIGED, DOC! AFTER WHAT I'VE SEEN, I SURE WOULDN'T WANT YOU FOR AN ENEMY!

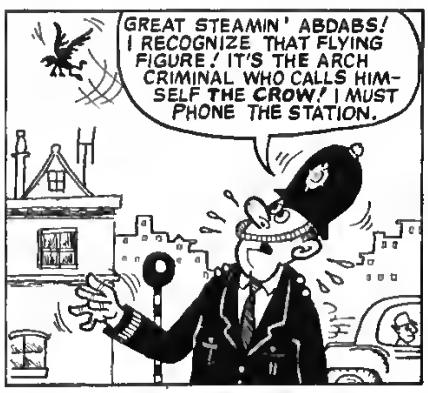
MAY THE VISHANTI WATCH OVER THEE!
AND MAY YOUR AMULET NEVER TICKLE!
THE ONLY THING WRONG WITH THIS EVENING IS... WHEN I WAKE UP TOMORROW, I WON'T BELIEVE A WORD OF IT!
The End

THE CLOAK BATTLES THE CRAFTY... CROW


IN THE BELFRY OF MIDVALE TOWN HALL, AN EXTREMELY CEREMONIOUS TYPE CEREMONY IS BEING CONDUCTED BY THE LORD MAYOR, THE RIGHT HON. FRED BELCH ESQUIRE...
I HAVE-ER-GREAT PLEASURE IN UNVEILING THIS-UM-GOLDEN BELL TO MARK THE CENTENARY OF-AH MIDVALE TOWN HALL!
CLAP!
CLAP!

CAW! CAW! THE BELL WON'T BE THERE FOR LONG OR MY NAME'S NOT THE CROW!

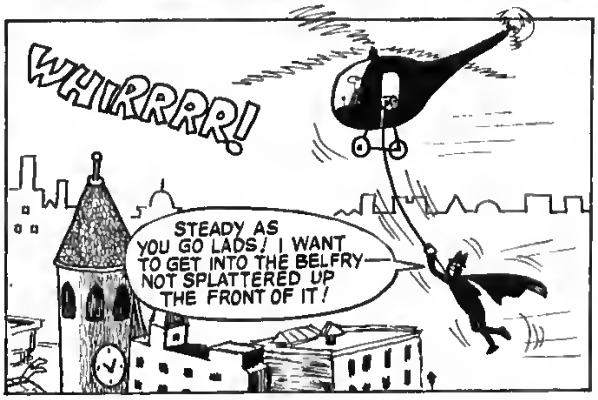
LATER...
CAW! CAW! NOW THAT THE OFFICIAL TYPE TWITS HAVE DOPPED IT, I'LL NIP OVER AND HELP MYSELF! CACKLE!


GREAT STEAMIN' ABDABS! I RECOGNIZE THAT FLYING FIGURE! IT'S THE ARCH CRIMINAL WHO CALLS HIMSELF THE CROW! I MUST PHONE THE STATION.

THE CROW YOU SAY? HE MUST BE AFTER THE NEW GOLDEN BELL! I'LL PHONE THE SPECIAL SQUAD, THEY'LL KNOW WHAT TO DO!
POLICE DOG

YOU MUST GET OVER TO MIDVALE TOWN HALL! THE CROW WILL TRY AND CUT THE GOLDEN BELL UP AND CARRY IT OFF!
WE'LL TAKE THE HELICOPTER!

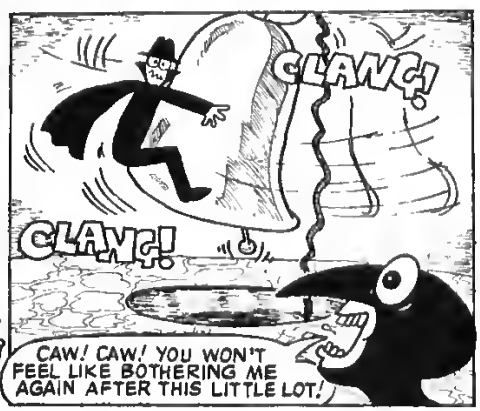
MEANWHILE...
CAW! CAW! ALL THIS GOLD WILL FETCH A FORTUNE! I'LL BE ON MY WAY BEFORE ANYONE CAN GET UP HERE!


WHIRRRRR!
STEADY AS YOU GO LADS! I WANT TO GET INTO THE BELFRY— NOT SPLATTERED UP THE FRONT OF IT!

WHAT'S THAT DISGUSTING OIN? CAN'T A FELLA GET A BIT OF PEACE AND QUIET NOW AND THEN?
WHIRRR!

CAUGHT YOU RED-HANDED, CROW! OR PERHAPS I SHOULD SAY GOLD HANDED!
CURSES! IT'S THAT MEDDLING BUG-EYED MORON FROM THE SPECIAL SQUAD!

OOF!
IF YOU WANT THE BELL YOU CAN HAVE IT!


CLANG!
CLANG!
CAW! CAW! YOU WON'T FEEL LIKE BOTHERING ME AGAIN AFTER THIS LITTLE LOT!

CLANG! CLANG!
I'LL JUST ACTIVATE MY MECHANICAL WINGS AND MAKE MY ESCAPE.
CLICK!
WHOOSH!
SO LONG, SUCKER! BY THE TIME YOU FINISH YOUR BELL RINGING ACT, I'LL BE MILES AWAY AS THE CROW FLIES! CAW! CAW!
CLANG!
I CAN'T LET HIM GET AWAY. HE'LL MAKE THE SPECIAL SQUAD LOOK LIKE A BUNCH OF RIGHT CHARLIES!
THUD!
COME DOWN QUICK! YOU CAN GIVE ME A LIFT.
FOLLOW THAT CROW!
YIKES! WHAT'S THIS? THE INDIAN ROPE TRICK!
THIS WILL CLIP YOUR WINGS! YOU'LL BE PERMANENTLY GROUNDED!
SNIP! SNIP! SNIP!
AWK! NO! NO! I'LL FALL!
GAAH!
FLAP! FLAP!
FLAP! FLAP!
THIS IS MIDVALE'S NEW SWIMMING BATHS WITH THE EXPENSIVE GLASS ROOF.
PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS
SMASH!
PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS
OOPS!—ER—ALL DONATIONS TO HELP PAY FOR A NEW GLASS ROOF WILL BE GRATEFULLY RECEIVED.
I'LL GO AND SEE WHERE THE FOUL FEATHERED FIEND LANDED.
HEH! HEH! THE CRAFTY CROW LOOKS MORE LIKE A DROWNED DUCK NOW!
MIK
BLUB!
SPLASH!
SLURP!
THAT FEATHER BRAINED TWIT WILL BE A CAGED BIRD FROM NOW ON!— IN THE CITY JAIL!
The End

THE AVENGERS

THIS SUPER-HUMAN TEAM OF FEARLESS CRUSADERS AGAINST CRIME ARE DEDICATED TO PROTECTING MANKIND AGAINST EVIL AND MIGHTY MENACES SEEKING TO CONQUER THE WORLD, AND LIKE EVERY TEAM, THEY MUST OPERATE FROM THEIR OWN **HEADQUARTERS...**

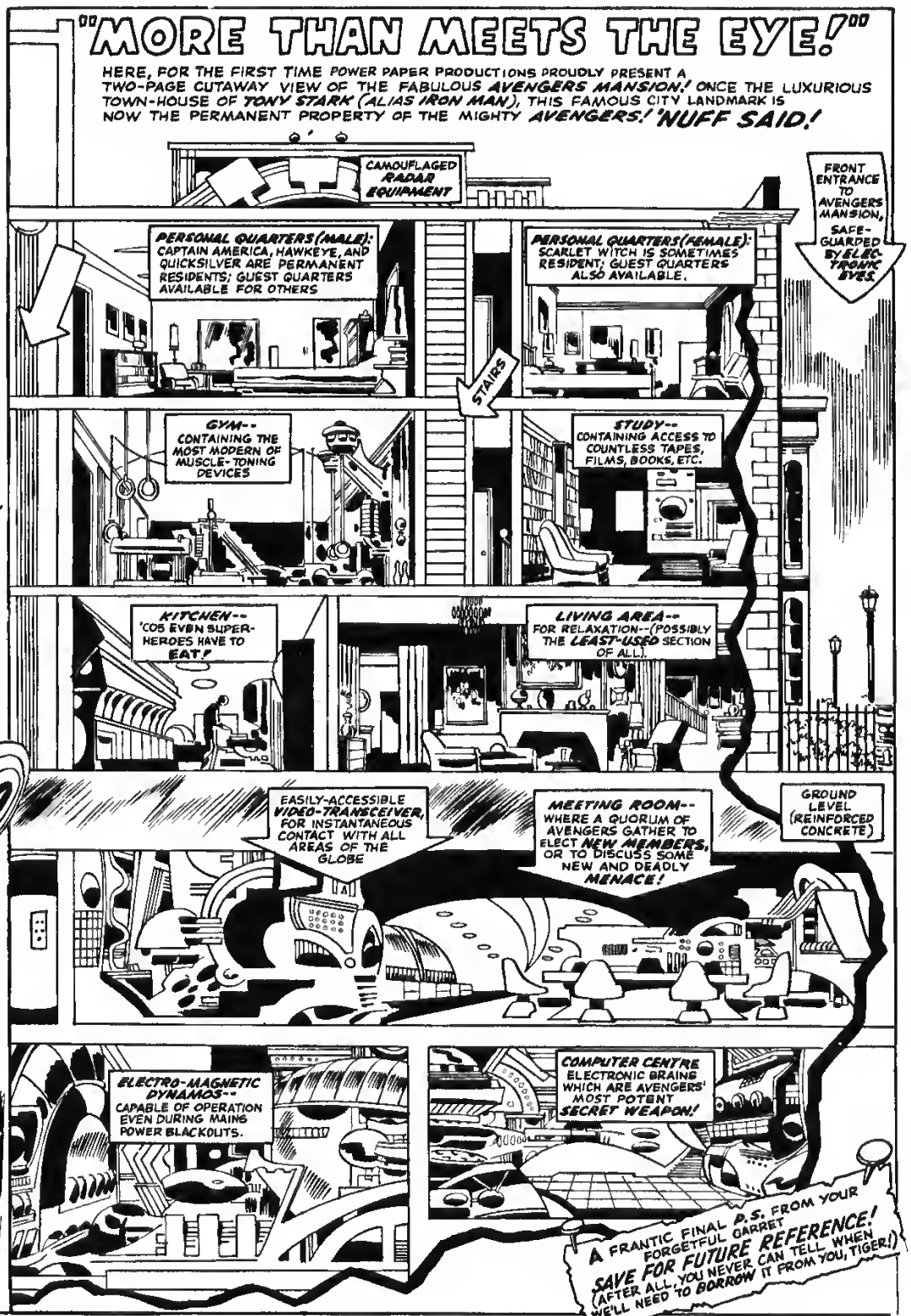
JUST TO COMPLETE THE PICTURE... JUST TO REMIND OURSELVES ANEW OF THE TRULY SUPER QUALITIES OF THOSE WHO FORM THE AWESOME AVENGERS... WE PRESENT THEM BELOW AND ON THE NEXT PAGE...

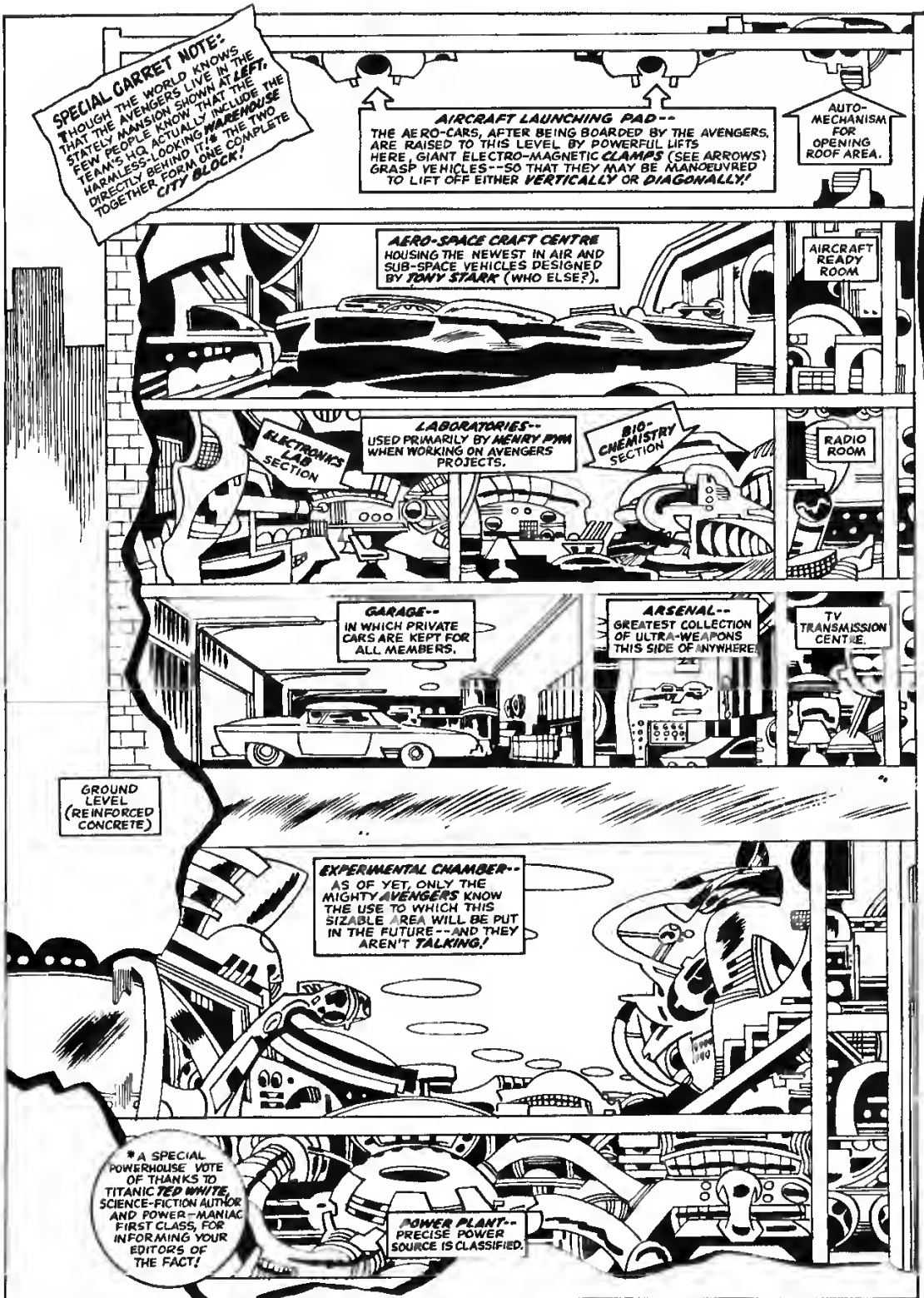
CAPTAIN AMERICA. *LEADER OF THE TEAM. AS STRONG AS HE IS BRAVE. HIS GREATEST WEAPON...HIS HURTLING BOOMERANG-STYLE* ***SHIELD!***

HAWKEYE. *RECKLESS, BRAVE MASTER ARCHER...WITH A QUIVER-FULL OF ARROWS TIPPED TO MEET EVERY DESPERATE SITUATION.*

"MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE!"

HERE, FOR THE FIRST TIME POWER PAPER PRODUCTIONS PROUDLY PRESENT A TWO-PAGE CUTAWAY VIEW OF THE FABULOUS ***AVENGERS MANSION!*** ONCE THE LUXURIOUS TOWN-HOUSE OF ***TONY STARK*** *(ALIAS* ***IRON MAN****)*, THIS FAMOUS CITY LANDMARK IS NOW THE PERMANENT PROPERTY OF THE MIGHTY ***AVENGERS!*** ***'NUFF SAID!***





QUICKSILVER— REFORMED 'BADDIE'. GIFTED WITH SUPER-SPEED. HE IS THE BROTHER OF....

WANDA, THE SCARLET WITCH— POSSESSES AN INVISIBLE FORCE CALLED *HEX-POWER!*

GOLIATH— BRILLIANT SCIENTIST, WHO, BY MEANS OF HIS CYBERNETIC HELMET IS ABLE TO CHANGE HIMSELF INSTANTLY FROM NORMAL TO *GIANT* SIZE! INVARIABLY PARTNERED BY.....

THE WASP— WHO IS ABLE, ALSO CYBERNETICALLY, TO CHANGE HER SIZE TO THAT OF A *WASP*... AND AT WHICH TIMES SHE ALSO GROWS WINGS!

WELL, YOU'VE MET THE TEAM... YOU'VE TOURED THEIR FABULOUS HEADQUARTERS. TO JOIN THEM *IN ACTION* ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS OPEN THE PAGES OF ***FANTASTIC,*** EVERY WEEK!

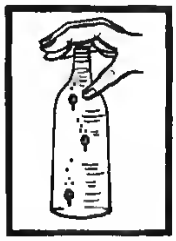
Reg. T.M. & © Marvel Comics Group 1967

Mister Knowall's FUN FARE!

HOW CAN OLD KNOWALL JUMP FROM A HEIGHT LIKE THIS INTO A BUCKET HALF-FILLED WITH WATER?

(THE BREATH-TAKING ANSWER IS BELOW.)

DANCING DIVERS . . .



Got a *full* bottle of water or lemonade? Good . . . now break off the heads of three matches . . . and drop them in (don't worry you won't harm the drink).

Now press the palm of your hand hard over the top of the bottle with the cork out . . . and the matches will sink to the bottom.

Slowly take the pressure of your hand away, and one 'diver' will rise to the top, another will dance in the middle and the last one will remain at the bottom.

By adjusting the pressure of your hand, you'll find that you can control the actions of your divers to perform all kinds of crazy actions—even hold races inside the bottle. But it can be thirsty work—so mind you don't swallow divers when you have to have a drink!

"This is a very dangerous cliff," said the holidaymaker.

"Why don't you put up a warning sign?"

"Oh, we did," replied the man who lived there, "But nobody fell over so we took it down!"

CLEAR AS GLASS!

Ever wanted to see through "frosted" glass—from the frosted side? You'd be surprised how easy it is! Just stick a piece of transparent self-adhesive tape onto it—and it's as clear as glass!

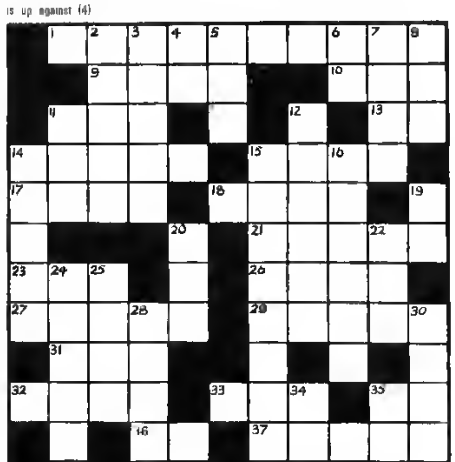
POWER CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Two of these make powerful reading! (10) 9 Goliath never called him that! (4) 10 Snake that sometimes has a crush on people! (3) 11 Russian river that flows quietly (3) 13 Aid to lose a letter! (2) 14 Hottest of heroes! (5) 15 Top of a triangle (4) 17 Little Miss Muffet had some! (4) 18 What Doctor Strange is up against (4) 21 What Ali does all day (5) 23 Nuff said says's title (3) 26 Twenty seven is — (4) 27 The Palais — is a famous dance (8) 29 Put it under the grindstone! (5) 31 Mischievous fairy (3) 32 Percy has plenty (4) 33 The Irish Republican Army (3) 35 Mini Mewi (2) 36 A little word that puts you in your place! (2) 37 Evil gun (5)

DOWN

2 Love, love love! (5) 3 She tickles your fancy! (5) 4 The box (2) 5 An engineering union (3) 6 There seems to be an initial missing from baby's bib! (2) 7 Pleasantly persuade (4) 8 What rubber starts as (3) 11 First musical tune (3) 12 A very amazing character shares his amazing characteristics with this creature! (6) 14 A sound often heard when Hawkeye for Robin Hood is around! (5) 15 They could be your favourite team! (8) 16 You drink this to stay young (6) 19 You and me! (2) 20 A certain teenager turns to this in a crisis—it's his only way of keeping cool! (3) 22 O! There's a letter missing to make this word describe little children (3) 24 What you always dream in, sometimes talk in go to bed for and sometimes walk in! (6) 28 The stuff that blocks the dockes! (4) 29 Fads will really mix you up! (4) 30 This would freeze an Iceman's nose! (4) 34 Indefinite article (2) 36 Glasgow belongs to this guy! (2)



Easy . . . It's only 7"—Measure it!

Are you a good Tec?

Read the story below—and SEE!

IT was five o'clock in the morning when Pete West arrived at the deserted, rainlashed station of Puddlewick-on-Sea.

"What a crazy way to start a holiday," he groaned as he stepped out in the full, biting fury of a dawn gale.

At that time of morning there were no buses or taxis—nothing. So he had to struggle a soaking half-mile with his bulging suitcase to the hotel he had booked.

There was not a soul in sight as he picked his way through the side turning last year's memory told him was a short cut.

"Hold it right there, lad." Pete was conscious of a burly figure behind him. And he was even more conscious of the gun that jabbed painfully into his spine.

"Now turn and face that shop window," rasped the voice.

Pete did as he was told, and rough hands thrust themselves inside his sodden raincoat searching for the wallet in his jacket. Through the plate glass of the window, Pete glimpsed his assailant . . . just a faceless bundle of menace with upturned collar, scarf pulled high, hat jammed low.

Then, as fumbling fingers closed on his precious wallet, Pete saw, mirrored in the window, a battered saloon drawing up alongside with the back door swinging open.

"Hurry it up," hissed a voice. Pete saw a gun swing up . . . blur down towards his head . . . and then. . .

"ARE you all right, lad?" Pete looked up to see the face of a policeman bending over him . . . and memory flooded back into his aching head. His hand fluttered to his breast pocket. "My wallet," he gasped, "They took it . . . and my suitcase . . . they coshed me. . . ."

★ ★ ★ ★

Detective Sergeant Mills scribbled furiously on a pad, and then slammed down the phone. "That was the constable on High Street patrol. There's been another of those footpad hold-ups," he yelled at his startled assistant. "But this time the witness spotted their car number! Get the owner of car, WOX 818, and we've got them!"

★ ★ ★ ★

It was almost time for lunch. Pete's head had stopped throbbing and he gazed enviously down at gay, yelling crowds on the now sun-drenched beach below his hotel window.

There was a sharp rap at the door.

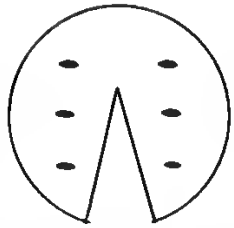
"Police. May I come in?"

Pete's heart leapt. The police. They'd come to return his luggage and money.

Continued over page . . .

CUT a wedge out of an apple, then make six gashes on what is left as the diagram shows. Now challenge anyone to DIVIDE THE APPLE INTO SIX PARTS with only TWO CUTS—so that there is one gash in each part.

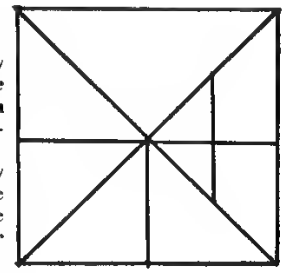
The answer is down below.



BRAIN BENDERS

HOW many letters of the alphabet can you find in this pattern?

Try . . . then try again . . . before you look for the surprising answer below.



CAN YOU SPOT THE DIF?

Both these cartoons LOOK the same, but there ARE eight things missing in picture B. See if you can spot them before you check below.

"You traced the car number?" he stammered as the sergeant entered the room.

"Yes, sir. The number you gave us . . . WOX 818 is a five-ton lorry belonging to a factory in Liverpool," frowned the sergeant. "Now, sir—if you're feeling better, perhaps I can have your story in detail . . ."

"B-But I told the constable who found me . . . they made me face the window . . . but I distinctly saw the car number behind me. . . ."

The sergeant interrupted, his face brightening. "That's IT, lad! You've told me what I want to know—I think we'll get your crooks after all!"

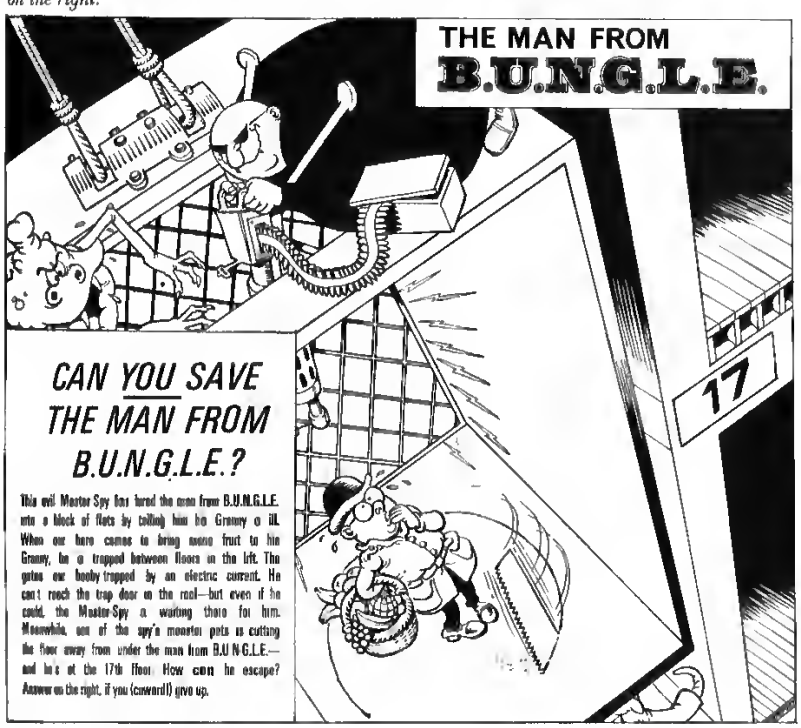
Within an hour, the bandits were arrested—and Pete enjoyed the holiday of his life. But have YOU spotted what he said that gave Sergeant Mills the vital clue?

If you didn't, you'll find the answer on the right.

IF there's one young lady who's always in a hurry it's Miss Janet van Dyne—otherwise known as the wonderful Wasp. All you have to do in this puzzle is to alter a letter in the word RUSH and write the new word on the line underneath. Then by continuing to change one letter at a time, form a word chain that turns RUSH into WASP!

R	U	S	H
W	A	S	P

THE MAN FROM B.U.N.G.L.E.



CAN YOU SAVE THE MAN FROM B.U.N.G.L.E.?

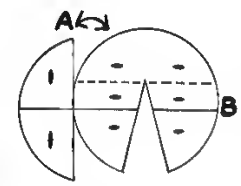
This evil Master Spy has lured the man from B.U.N.G.L.E. into a block of flats by calling him his Granny is ill. When our hero comes to bring some fruit to his Granny, he is trapped between floors in the lift. The gates are booby-trapped by an electric current. He can't reach the trap door on the roof—but even if he could, the Master-Spy is waiting there for him. Meanwhile, one of the spy's monster pets is cutting the floor away from under the man from B.U.N.G.L.E.—and he's at the 17th floor. How can he escape? Answer on the right, if you (coward!) give up.

ANSWER CORNER

★ ARE YOU A GOOD 'TEC?

When Pete revealed he was facing the window and saw the car number plate *WOX 818 behind* him, the detective realized that it had acted as a *mirror*. Therefore, Peter had seen the number BACK to FRONT—and the car they should look for was *818 XOW*.

	F	A	N	T	A	S	T	I	C	S
		D	A	V	E			B	O	A
	D	O	N		U		S		A	P
T	O	R	C	H		A	P	E	X	
W	H	E	Y		E	V	I	L		U
A				I		E	D	I	T	S
N	S	S		C		N	E	X	T	
G	L	I	D	E		G	R	I	S	T
	E	L	F			E		R		E
P	E	T	S		I	R	A		M	A
	P		A	T		S	N	E	E	R



First cut the apple through the dotted line, then place the piece you've cut off (A) at the side of the larger piece (B) and make a second cut through both of them where the straight line is drawn

W	A	S	P
R	A	S	P
R	A	S	H
R	U	S	H

*There are FIFTEEN letters in the pattern. They are . . . A E F H I K L M N T V W X Y Z.

★DID YOU SPOT THE DIF?

1.—One spot less on salesman's tie.
2.—Cat has lost his nose.
3.—Cat has lost a claw on his left forepaw.
4.—One flower missing from border.
5.—First gatepost has lost a strut.
6.—Salesman has lost his little finger.
7.—Strap from suitcase handle is missing.
8.—Full stop missing on gate notice.

*Larry throws the fruit up to the hungry monster and hooks his empty basket on the gunsight before the fat old villain can draw a bead on him. Then he hauls on the basket pulling the master spy down into the lift.

Before the floor gives way, Larry climbs up on the spy's unconscious form to escape through the trap-door above, while the spy falls 17 tall storeys to his doom.

news from the floor of 64!

64, LONG ACRE
LONDON, W.C.2

WELL THIS IS IT. THE GENUINE GARRET GET-TOGETHER SUMMER SPECIAL WE'VE BEEN *PROMISING* YOU! We got it out! We made it! But don't ASK us HOW we editorializers up here in the Power House garret managed to genius through this fifty-six page 'biggie' in between deadlines on our normal weekly issue of FANTASTIC, POW and SMASH. In fact, please don't let's even talk about it! Let's just say that our leader AFFABLE ALF, BIG BOLD BART, CASANOVA COS, JOLLY J. J. JACKSON, in fact ALL of us need a 'summer special' right now of our own! A HOLIDAY, that is! But there's just one snag! Darn it, what with peerless pages of power to put together week after week after week after week after . . . we just haven't GOT THE TIME!

* * *

Up here in the Powerhouse garret we have a 'wise old feller' who came in one day out of the rain and has been here ever since. Not that he actually DOES anything except hang around and look wise, but every now and again he does SAY something which makes us realise he may really BE a wise old feller. Like when we were in the middle of slave-drivin' this summer special through the deadline barrier! Maybe SOME of the readers of this Special he said won't know about our beloved bunch of characters from FANTASTIC, SMASH and POW!! Well, right out we nearly busted ourselves laughing at the notion that there was ANYBODY who . . . but then because we haven't got time to waste on laughing we thought it over! Maybe he is right we decided. After all, he is supposed to be a wise old feller.

* * *

Soooooooo . . . just for ONE OR TWO Special readers who have so far missed out on the power bunch (there can't be more really) we give here a potpourri of petit profiles on the super-heroes gang . . .

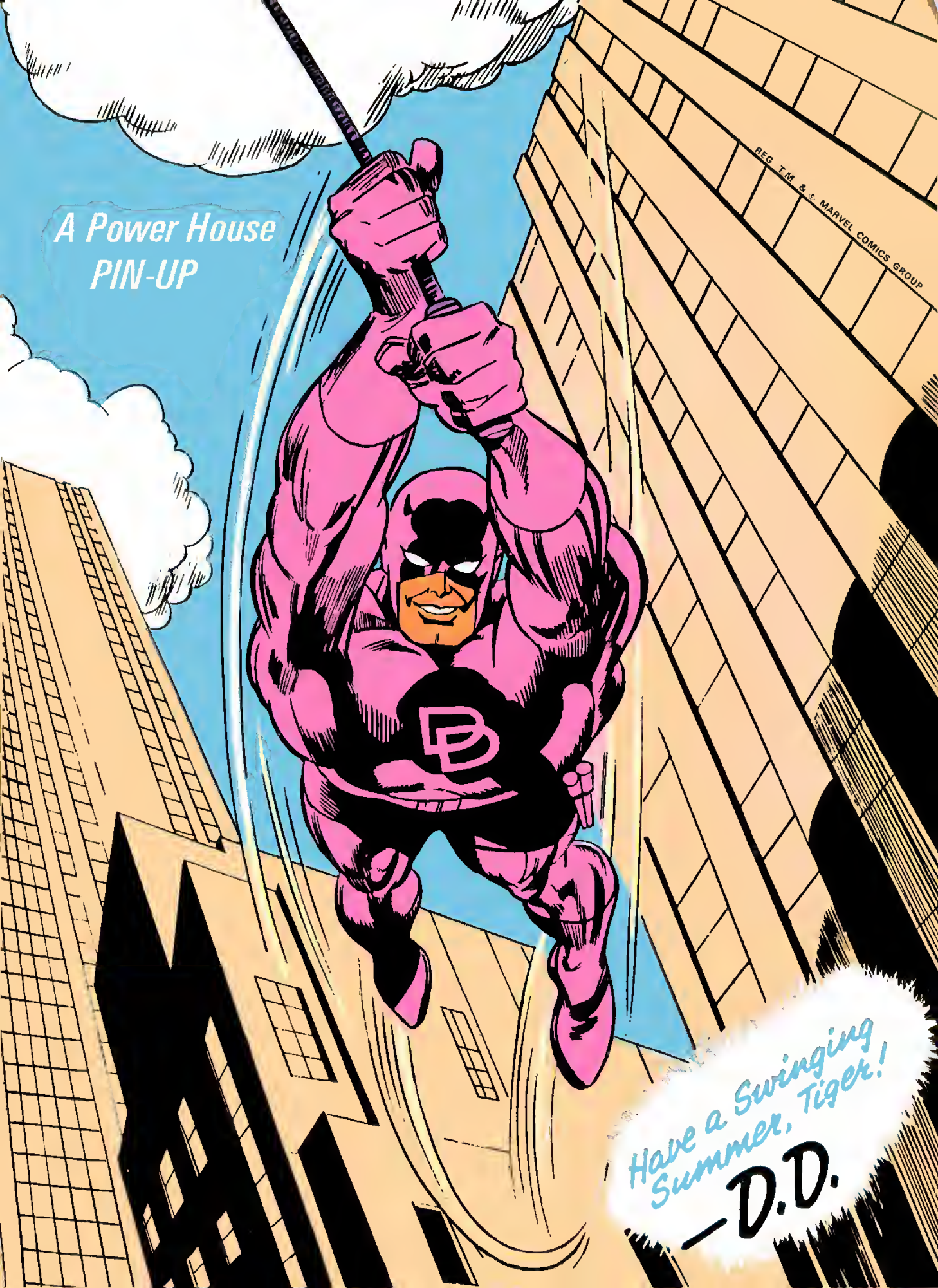
STARTING OUT WITH THE *FANTASTIC* TEAM . . . we have THOR! God of Thunder and Son of mighty Odin. His 'alter ego' is little, crippled DR. DON BLAKE. When the Doc strikes his cane upon the ground he instantly changes back into THOR! And then its super-villains . . . LOOK OUT!! THE X MEN, rightly termed the most unusual fighting team of all time, are all teenage mutants, master-minded by the brilliant PROFESSOR XAVIER. You want to see super-hero action with a difference then stay *tuned in* to THE X MEN every week. To THE ANGEL, CYCLOPS, THE BEAST, ICEMAN and MARVEL GIRL!! DOC STRANGE, master of the mystic arts, and THE AVENGERS, you've already met right here in this Summer Special . . . but THE HULK, now he's really something to go ravin' *wild over!* The Green Giant he's also called. And he's the biggest, most rampagin' thing in comicdom. Don't just take our word for it! See for yourself . . . in FANTASTIC!!

* * *

THEN OVER TO POW. How come SPIDER MAN? Well, Peter Parker, a very intelligence plus student, was bitten by a radio active spider . . . and thus acquired the proportionate powers of a spider. Apart from a really AWESOME line-up of super-villains to cope with, Spidey also has an enemy in J. JONAH JAMESON, Editor of the Daily Bugle, which is complicated because Peter Parker also works for J. J. JAMESON as a photographer and . . . but more about that, you'll find, in POW, every Saturday. Same with THE FANTASTIC FOUR. You'll meet Reed Richards, the body stretching leader of the F.F., BEN GRIMM, otherwise known as THE THING, and JOHNNY STORM, or if you would rather have it, THE TORCH. And Johnny's sister Sue, who can become invisible and also project a devastating 'force field' complete this really way-out super-hero quartet . . . in POW! SMASH-wise . . . we have DAREDEVIL, and through this Special you know all about him! But to back him up in CASANOVA COS'S coveted comic we have RUBBERMAN and BATMAN, not to mention the *pages* of fabulous 'funnies' for which SMASH is justly FAMOUS!

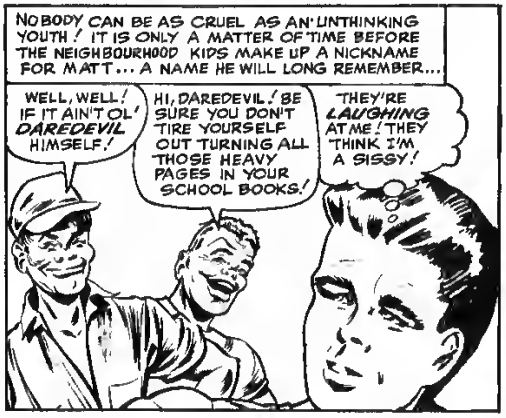
* * *

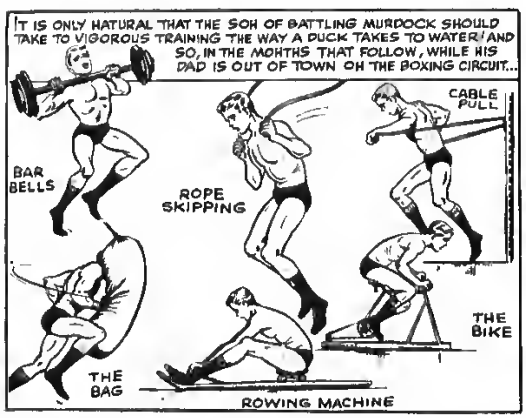
So there you have it. All yours, to be enjoyed every week in FANTASTIC, SMASH and POW . . . and, of course, there's more, much much much more that we haven't SPACE enough to tell you about here. So if you're not one already . . . become a member of THE BROTHERHOOD OF POWER!! Pamper yourself . . . read one, two or all of the POWER PACK. There's nothing, but nothing, in comicdom LIKE them!

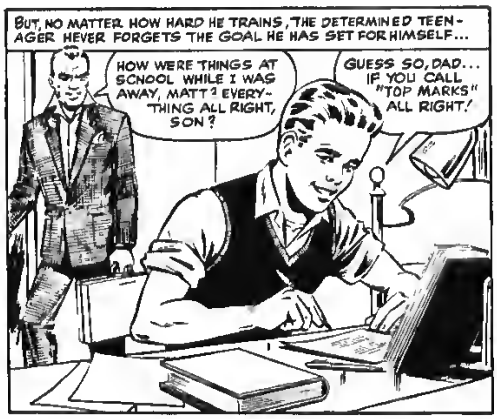

A Power House
PIN-UP
REG. T.M. & © MARVEL COMICS GROUP
Have a Swinging Summer, Tiger!
—D.D.

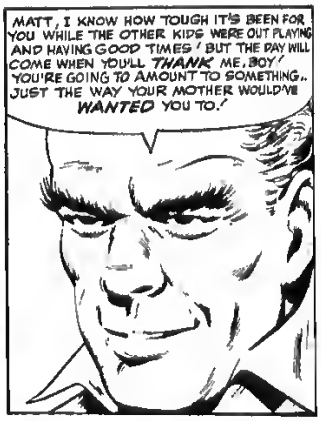
Reg. T.M. & © Marvel Comics Group 1966

AS THE YEARS ROLL BY, MATT MURDOCK DOES HIS BEST TO LIVE UP TO HIS FATHER'S DREAM!! HE BECOMES TOP STUDENT IN HIS CLASS, FORSAKING ALL SPORTS, ALL ATHLETIC ACTIVITIES, ALTHOUGH HIS HEART ACHES FOR THE THRILLS OF THE SPORTS FIELD!

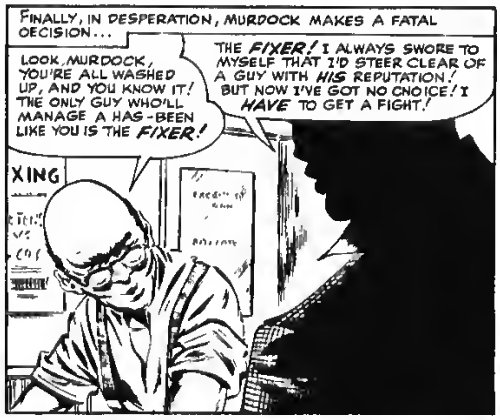


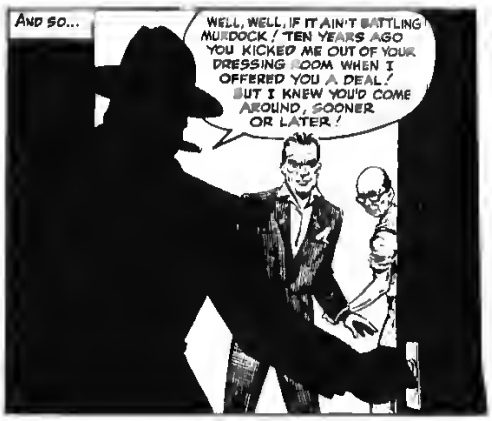

IT IS ONLY NATURAL THAT THE SON OF BATTLING MURDOCK SHOULD TAKE TO VIGOROUS TRAINING THE WAY A DUCK TAKES TO WATER! AND SO, IN THE MONTHS THAT FOLLOW, WHILE HIS DAD IS OUT OF TOWN ON THE BOXING CIRCUIT...
BAR BELLS
ROPE SKIPPING
CABLE PULL
THE BIKE
THE BAG
ROWING MACHINE


BUT, NO MATTER HOW HARD HE TRAINS, THE DETERMINED TEEN-AGER NEVER FORGETS THE GOAL HE HAS SET FOR HIMSELF...
HOW WERE THINGS AT SCHOOL WHILE I WAS AWAY, MATT? EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT, SON?
GUESS SO, DAD... IF YOU CALL "TOP MARKS" ALL RIGHT!


MATT, I KNOW HOW TOUGH IT'S BEEN FOR YOU WHILE THE OTHER KIDS WERE OUT PLAYING AND HAVING GOOD TIMES! BUT THE DAY WILL COME WHEN YOU'LL THANK ME, BOY! YOU'RE GOING TO AMOUNT TO SOMETHING.. JUST THE WAY YOUR MOTHER WOULD'VE WANTED YOU TO!

BUT, THERE IS ONE PROBLEM WHICH BATTLING MURDOCK KEEPS FROM HIS SON..
I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO LAND A FIGHT IN WEEKS! I'M GETTIN' TOO OLD! NO MANAGER WILL TAKE ME! BUT I CAN'T LET MATT DOWN!
I'VE GOT TO KEEP FIGHTIN'! UNTIL HE FINISHES HIS SCHOOLING! I OWE HIM THAT... FOR THE WAY HE'S WORKED ALL THESE YEARS!


FINALLY, IN DESPERATION, MURDOCK MAKES A FATAL DECISION...
LOOK, MURDOCK, YOU'RE ALL WASHED UP, AND YOU KNOW IT! THE ONLY GUY WHO'LL MANAGE A HAS-BEEN LIKE YOU IS THE FIXER!
THE FIXER! I ALWAYS SWORE TO MYSELF THAT I'D STEER CLEAR OF A GUY WITH HIS REPUTATION! BUT NOW I'VE GOT NO CHOICE! I HAVE TO GET A FIGHT!
XING


AND SO...
WELL, WELL, IF IT AIN'T BATTLING MURDOCK! TEN YEARS AGO YOU KICKED ME OUT OF YOUR DRESSING ROOM WHEN I OFFERED YOU A DEAL! BUT I KNEW YOU'D COME AROUND, SOONER OR LATER!

SURE, I'LL GET YOU SOME FIGHTS! AND YOU WON'T HAVE TO TAKE A DIVE, EITHER! JUST BECAUSE I'M REALLY A SOFT-HEARTED FOOL! HERE, SIGN THIS CONTRACT!

WITH TREMBLING FINGERS, THE MIDDLE-AGED FIGHTER GRASPS THE PEN, AS A DROWNING MAN WOULD CLUTCH AT A STRAW! AND THEN...

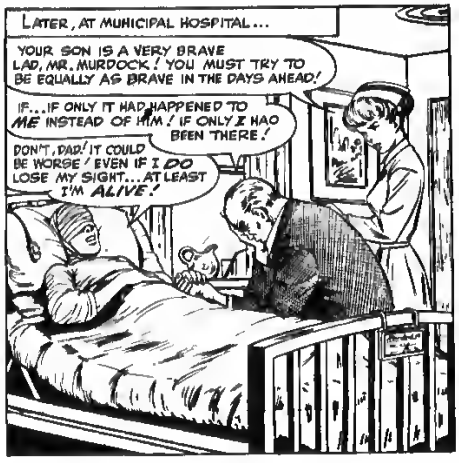
THIS IS THE LUCKIEST DAY OF MY LIFE! NOW I'LL BE ABLE TO KEEP MATT AT SCHOOL! I DON'T HAVE A THING TO WORRY ABOUT!

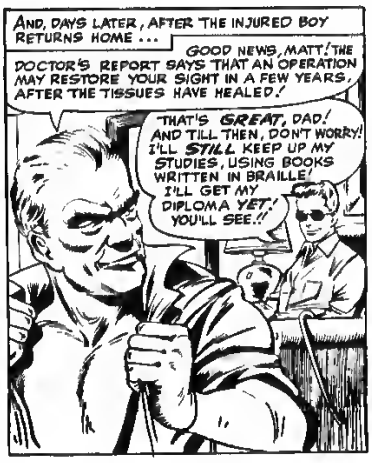
EXCITEDLY, THE JOYFUL PRIZE-FIGHTER RUSHES TO HIS APARTMENT, ONLY TO FIND...
MATT! WAIT'LL I TELL YOU THE NEWS! MATT... HE'S NOT HERE!

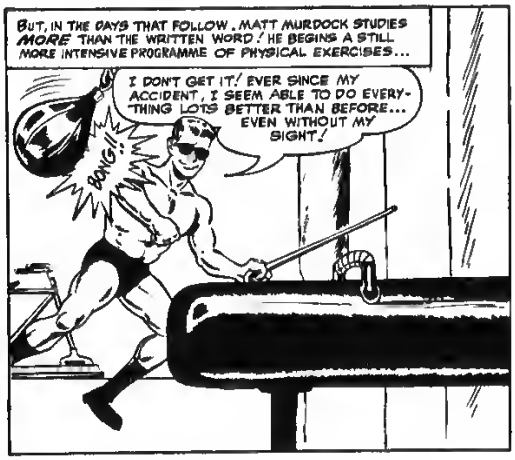
AS FATE WOULD HAVE IT, MATHEW MURDOCK, AT THAT VERY MOMENT, IS RETURNING FROM THE LIBRARY... TAKING THE MOST IMPORTANT FEW STEPS OF HIS ENTIRE LIFE!
GEE, YOU'D THINK SOMEONE WOULD HELP THAT BLIND MAN ACROSS THE STREET!
SAY, MISTER... CAN I GIVE YOU A HAND?
CLEANERS

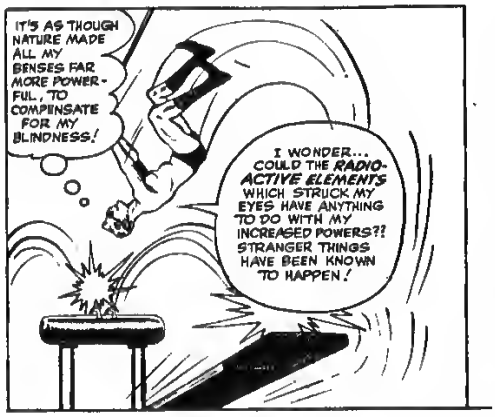
HE DIDN'T SEEM TO HEAR ME! HE MIGHT BE DEAF, TOO! SAY... THERE'S A TRUCK TURNING THE CORNER... COMING TOWARDS HIM!

HANK... SLAM ON THE BRAKES! SOMEONE'S CROSSIN' IN FRONT OF US!
I CAN'T! SOMETHING'S WRONG! SHE WON'T STOP!
SCREECH!
AJAX ATOMIC LABS
RADIO-ACTIVE MATERIALS
DANGER

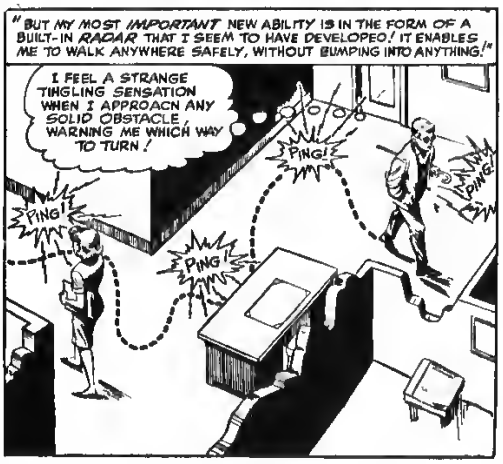








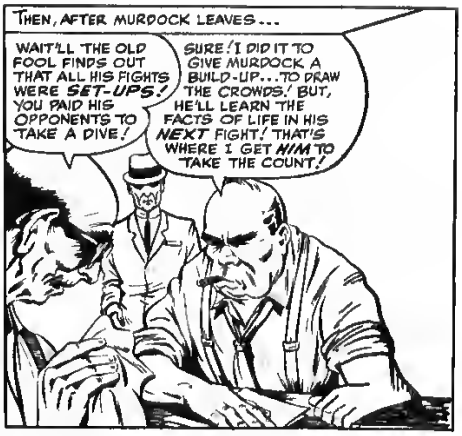
BUT, WHATEVER THE EXPLANATION, IT IS A SUPREMELY CONFIDENT, SELF-ASSURED MATT MURDOCK WHO FINALLY GRADUATES WITH FULL HONOURS AND IS READILY GIVEN A PLACE IN A TOP UNIVERSITY, WHERE WE FIND HIM SHARING A DORMITORY ROOM WITH HIS NEW FRIEND FRANKLIN "FOGGY" NELSON...



SAY, SON... WANT ANY HELP CROSSIN' THE STREET?
NO THANKS! I CAN MAKE IT!
LITTLE DOES HE SUSPECT I CAN CROSS MORE SAFELY THAN HE CAN.. FOR I HAVE EVERY ONE OF MY REMAINING SENSES WORKING AT ABSOLUTE PEAK CAPACITY!
PING!

MEANWHILE, THE CAREER OF BATTLING MURDOCK TAKES A SURPRISING TURN...
MADISON SQ
KID MURDOCK VS. PEDRO GAR
THURS. OCT. 10:00 PM
MURDOCK K.O.S SIMS IN 9TH
MURDOCK 12TH KNO

HERE'S YOUR DOUGH, MURDOCK! KEEP IT UP AND YOU MAY BE CHAMP, SOME-DAY!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT, FIXER! IT ALL SEEMS LIKE SOME KIND OF MIRACLE!


THEN, AFTER MURDOCK LEAVES...
WAIT'LL THE OLD FOOL FINDS OUT THAT ALL HIS FIGHTS WERE SET-UPS! YOU PAID HIS OPPONENTS TO TAKE A DIVE!
SURE! I DID IT TO GIVE MURDOCK A BUILD-UP...TO DRAW THE CROWDS! BUT, HE'LL LEARN THE FACTS OF LIFE IN HIS NEXT FIGHT! THAT'S WHERE I GET HIM TO TAKE THE COUNT!

AND, A FEW DAYS BEFORE BATTLING MURDOCK'S LATEST FIGHT...
FOOTSTEPS! I CAN TELL BY THE WEIGHT... THE DISTANCE BETWEEN EACH.. IT'S FOGGY NELSON!
HEY, MATT! WAIT UP! I WANT TO READ YOU THE SPORTS HEADLINE! IT'S ABOUT YOUR DAD!

HE'S FIGHTING DYNAMITE DAVIS TOMORROW NIGHT IN NEW YORK! HOW ABOUT THAT? WANT TO GO ??
I'VE ALREADY GOT THE TICKETS, FOGGY...ONE FOR EACH OF US!
I "READ" THE HEADLINE BEFORE --- JUST BY RUNNING MY FINGER OVER THE PAGE AND FEELING THE IMPRESSION OF THE INK!
DAILY CHRONICLE
"KID" MURDOCK TO FACE DAVIS, NO.2 CONTENDER!
SEMI-TITLE AT GARDEN PROMISES THRILLS

AND SO, THE NEXT NIGHT...
THE FIXER SAID I HAVE TO TAKE A DIVE IN THE FIRST ROUND TONIGHT.
...AND IN THIS CORNER THE MIDDLE-AGED SENSATION... BATTLING MURDOCK!

BUT MY BOY'S HERE TONIGHT, TO ROOT FOR HIS DAD! I'VE ALWAYS TRAINED HIM TO DO HIS BEST... I CAN'T DISAPPOINT HIM NOW!
MURDOCK! YOU FOOL! TAKE IT EASY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
IF YOU'RE TRYING TO DOUBLE-CROSS ME, YOU'LL LIVE TO REGRET IT! YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO DIVE NOW...HEAR? DIVE!

HE'S WINNING MATT! YOUR DAD'S PULVERIZING HIM!
I KNOW IT! I CAN FOLLOW THE FIGHT PERFECTLY, BY HEARING THE SOUND OF EACH BLOW, EACH FOOTSTEP!

IT'S MY ONE CHANCE ...MAYBE MY LAST CHANCE... TO DO SOMETHING TO MAKE MY SON PROUD OF ME! I'M NOT GOING TO FAIL HIM! I'M GOING TO WIN...DO YOU HEAR? I'M GOING TO WIN!
WHOP!
WHAM!

CALL IT A MIRACLE! CALL IT PURE WILL-POWER... SHEER DETERMINATION! CALL IT WHAT YOU WILL, BUT A FEW SECONDS LATER...
THE WINNAN... BATTLING MURDOCK!!

AND THEN, IN THE DRESSING ROOM..
YOU DID IT, DAD! YOU PROVED THAT NOTHING'S IMPOSSIBLE IF A MAN HAS THE COURAGE! IF A MAN'S NOT AFRAID!!
I WANTED YOU TO BE PROUD OF ME, MATT... MY SON!

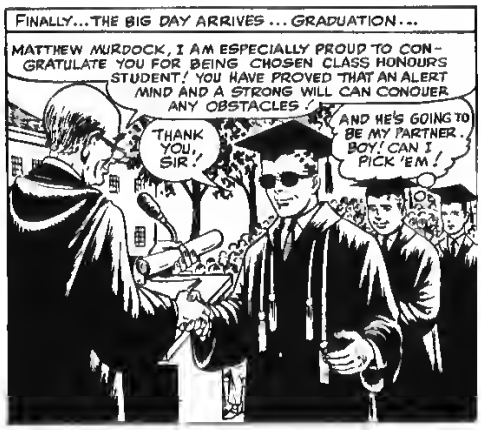
BUT, IN THE BACK SEAT OF A DARK SEDAN WHICH QUIETLY PULLS AWAY FROM THE STADIUM.
NOBODY DOUBLE-CROSSES THE FIXER! YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO, SLADE!
YEAH, BOSS. I KNOW WHAT TO DO!

A FEW MINUTES LATER, AS MATT'S HAPPY FATHER LEAVES THE GYM...
NO MATTER WHAT THE FIXER DOES, I WON'T CARE! MY SON IS PROUD OF ME! NOTHING CAN EVER CHANGE THAT NOW!

SUDDENLY, THE SHARP, EXPLOSIVE SOUND OF A GUN SHOT DESTROYS THE SILENCE OF NIGHT, AND ENDS ONE MAN'S REVERIE, FOREVER!
CRACK!

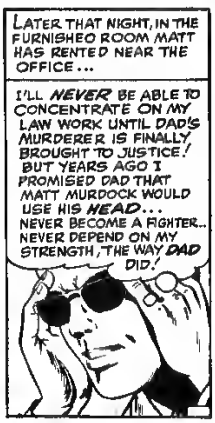
WITHIN SECONDS...
IT'S BATTLING MURDOCK! HE WON THE BIG FIGHT TONIGHT!
SOMEBODY MUST HAVE BEEN AWFULLY SORE ABOUT HIS VICTORY! AND WE'RE NOT GOING TO REST UNTIL WE FIND OUT WHO!!
NOTHING I CAN DO FOR HIM... IT'S TOO LATE!

LATER, AFTER A GRIEVING MATT MURDOCK HAS HEARD THE TRAGIC NEWS...
YOU'VE GOT TO SNAP OUT OF IT, MATT! PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER, FELLA! THAT'S WHAT YOUR DAD WOULD HAVE WANTED!
WE'LL BE GRADUATING SOON AND MY DAD'S SETTING ME UP IN A LAW OFFICE! I WANT YOU TO JOIN ME, MATT... AS MY PARTNER!


FINALLY... THE BIG DAY ARRIVES... GRADUATION...
MATTHEW MURDOCK, I AM ESPECIALLY PROUD TO CONGRATULATE YOU FOR BEING CHOSEN CLASS HONOURS STUDENT! YOU HAVE PROVED THAT AN ALERT MIND AND A STRONG WILL CAN CONQUER ANY OBSTACLES!
THANK YOU, SIR!
AND HE'S GOING TO BE MY PARTNER. BOY! CAN I PICK 'EM!

THE NEXT DAY, IN THE BIG CITY...
WE'RE IN BUSINESS, MATT! WITH YOUR BRAINS AND MY DAD'S MONEY, NOTHING'LL STOP US!
C'MON IN AND MEET THE SECRETARY I HIRED!
NELSON AND MURDOCK
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
ENTER

MY NAME IS KAREN PAGE, MR. MURDOCK! I HOPE YOU'LL BE PLEASED WITH ME!
HER VOICE IS LIKE MUSIC! FROM THE SOUND, SHE'S FIVE-FEET-FOUR, YOUNG, AND I KNOW SHE'S LOVELY!


LATER THAT NIGHT, IN THE FURNISHED ROOM MATT HAS RENTED NEAR THE OFFICE...
I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO CONCENTRATE ON MY LAW WORK UNTIL DAD'S MURDERER IS FINALLY BROUGHT TO JUSTICE! BUT YEARS AGO I PROMISED DAD THAT MATT MURDOCK WOULD USE HIS HEAD... NEVER BECOME A FIGHTER... NEVER DEPEND ON MY STRENGTH, THE WAY DAD DID!

I CAN'T BREAK THAT PROMISE I MADE! AND YET, WITH MY AGILITY, MY EXTRA-SHARP SENSES, THERE IS SO MUCH I COULD DO! I CAN'T LET ALL MY POWERS GO TO WASTE!
WAIT! I HAVE IT!
SNAP!

I'LL GEE TO IT THAT MATT MURDOCK NEVER DOES RESORT TO FORCE... BUT SOMEBODY ELSE WILL...! SOMEBODY TOTALLY DIFFERENT FROM MATT MURDOCK... ALL I NEED ARE SOME OLD SHIRTS WHICH I CAN STITCH TOGETHER!

I'M NO NEEDLE CHAMP, BUT I SHOULD BE ABLE TO HANDLE THIS! LUCKY MY TOUCH IS SO SENSITIVE!

I CAN EVEN BLEND THE COLOURS, FOR EACH COLOURED FABRIC HAS A DIFFERENT FEEL TO ME!

A FEW HOURS LATER...
MATT MURDOCK! BUT I'LL NEED A NEW NAME! WHAT IF THE KIDS IN THE OLD NEIGHBOURHOOD COULD SEE ME NOW!! THE KIDS WHO TAUNTED ME... CALLED ME "DAREDEVIL"! WAIT! THAT'S IT!!
D

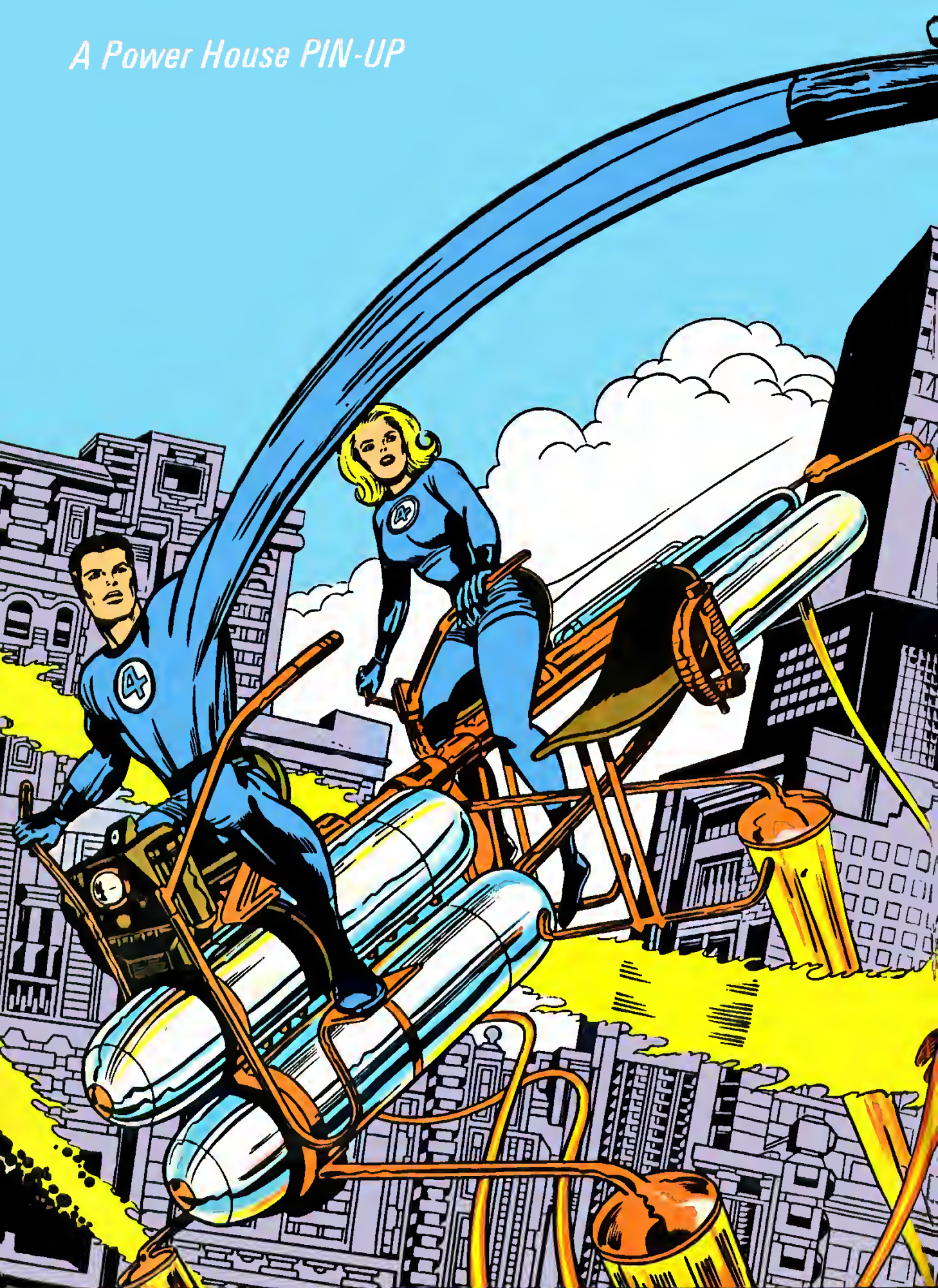
THE COSTUME IS TIGHT ENOUGH TO WEAR UNDER MY CLOTHES IF NEED BE! I'LL JUST MAKE A FEW FINISHING TOUCHES ON THE HEADPIECE! WHEN I'M THROUGH, DAREDEVIL WILL BE RECOGNIZED ANYWHERE!!

"DAREDEVIL" THEY CALLED ME... BUT THEY MEANT IT AS AN INSULT! WELL, THAT'S WHO I'LL BE... THE NAME IS PERFECT!

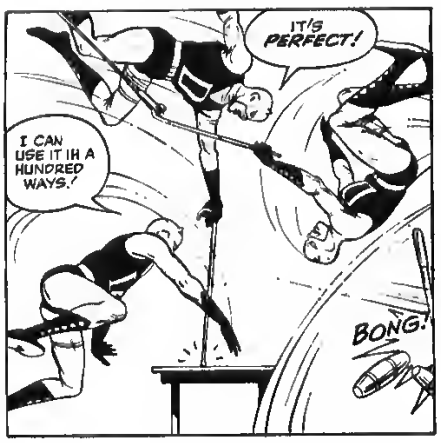
EVEN THOUGH I DON'T NEED IT, I'LL CONTINUE TO CARRY A CANE AS MATT MURDOCK! MMM... THAT GIVES ME ANOTHER IDEA! THAT CANE WOULD MAKE A GREAT WEAPON FOR DAREDEVIL!
D

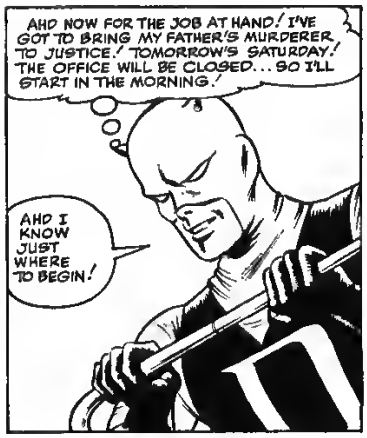
THROUGH THE LONG NIGHT, THE UNSEEING MAN WORKS... HIS SUPER-SENSITIVE FINGERS MOULDING AND MANIPULATING HIS CANE FAR MORE PRECISELY THAN ANY NORMAL CRAFTSMAN MIGHT DO IT!
FLEXIBLE HANDLE
I'LL HINGE IT IN THE MIDDLE... DESIGN A SHEATH FOR IT... IT'LL BE THE PERFECT ALL-PURPOSE WEAPON!
HINGE

A Power House PIN-UP



WELCOME TO THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR!
REG TM & © MARVEL COMICS GROUP


IT'S PERFECT!
I CAN USE IT IN A HUNDRED WAYS!
BONG!


AND NOW FOR THE JOB AT HAND! I'VE GOT TO BRING MY FATHER'S MURDERER TO JUSTICE! TOMORROW'S SATURDAY! THE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED... SO I'LL START IN THE MORNING!
AND I KNOW JUST WHERE TO BEGIN!

AND SO:... DAD'S MANAGER WAS A MAN CALLED THE FIXER! I HAVE A HUNCH HE DESERVES THAT NICKNAME!
HOW CONFIDENTLY THAT BLIND YOUNG MAN WALKS THROUGH THE STREET!

UNERRINGLY GUIDED BY HIS ATOM-INDUCED RADAR-SENSE, MATT MURDOCK REACHES HIS DESTINATION...
THIS WILL BE DAREDEVIL'S FIRST TEST! NOW TO CHANGE CLOTHES IN AN ALLEY AND SEE IF I'M AS GOOD AS I THINK!

IN A DINGY ROOM ABOVE THE GYM, FOUR MEN PLAY A GAME OF POKER, LITTLE DREAMING OF THE SHOCK WHICH AWAITS THEM!
COME ON, PORKY! WE HAVEN'T GOT ALL DAY! THE FIXER MAY BE HERE SOON!
KEEP YOUR SHIRT ON, SAM! I DON'T RUSH FOR ANYONE!

WHO DO YOU THINK YOU'RE KIDDING? YOU KNOW WHEN THE FIXER SNAPS HIS FINGERS, WE ALL HOP, IF WE WANT TO STAY HEALTHY!

SAM'S RIGHT! ANYHOW, I'M BUSHED! LET'S KNOCK OFF FOR A WHILE UNTIL... HEY! WHAT'S THAT NOISE?
CREAK!

FOR THE LOVE OF PETE! WHAT DO YOU CALL THAT?!!

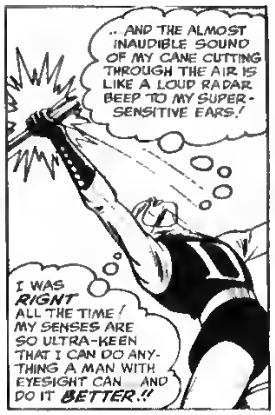
YOU'RE IN THE WRONG PLACE, BUSTER! WE DON'T USE COSTUMED WRESTLERS HERE!
I'VE SEEN NUTTY GETUPS, BUT THAT ONE TAKES THE CAKE!
BUT LOOK AT HIS BUILD! HANG AROUND, FELLA... MAYBE THE FIXER CAN USE YOU!
I INTEND TO DO JUST THAT! WHEN I'M THROUGH WITH THE FIXER, HE'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO USE ANYONE EVER AGAIN!
HEY, THAT GUY'S HERE LOOKIN' FOR TROUBLE! THE FIXER WON'T LIKE THAT!!

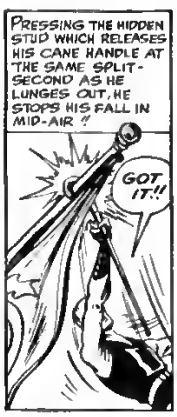
SOMEBODY ASKING FOR ME? WHAT DO YOU WANT?
HEY, BOSS, DIG THE GETUP ON THAT CLOWN!
HE LOOKS LIKE TROUBLE TO ME, FIXER! WANT WE SHOULD LEAN ON HIM A LITTLE?

MY "ASSOCIATES" DON'T SEEM TO LIKE YOUR LOOKS, MISTER! YOU BETTER TALK FAST!
FROM THE HEAVY TONE OF HIS VOICE HE'S BEEFY, ROUGH! I HEAR BREATHING ON EACH SIDE OF HIM... SO THE OTHER TWO MUST BE FLANKING HIM!
CORRECTION, FIXER! YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S GOING TO TALK!!

I WANT TO KNOW WHAT ARRANGEMENT YOU HAD WITH BATTLING MURDOCK!
BATTLING MURDOCK!! WHAT'S THAT TO YOU??! IT AIN'T HEALTHY TO MENTION HIM AROUND HERE!

HE MUST KNOW SOMETHING, BOSS! I'LL TAKE CARE OF HIM!
THE SOUND OF A SUIT JACKET BEING DRAWN ASIDE! FINGERS TOUCHING A METAL OBJECT! MUST BE A GUN BUTT... IN A SHOULDER HOLSTER!





DAREDEVIL'S LIGHTNING-FAST REACTIONS SAVE HIM FROM A FALL TO DEATH. DONNING ORDINARY CLOTHES OVER HIS DAREDEVIL COSTUME, MATT WANDERS THE STREETS, SEARCHING FOR A CLUE THAT WILL LEAD HIM ONCE AGAIN TO THE FIXER AND HIS HENCHMAN, SLADE. THUS, A FEW HOURS LATER...

BRIAN'S BRAIN

BRIAN KINGSLEY IS THE POSSESSOR OF AN AMAZING ARTIFICIAL BRAIN AND HIS SECRET IS SHARED ONLY BY HIS FRIEND, DUFFY ROLLS. DURING THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS, BRIAN'S FORM-MASTER, MR. DARRELL, TAKES THE ENTIRE CLASS TO WELBY-ON-SEA FOR A WEEK...
I'VE ORGANISED AN ANGLING COMPETITION FOR TOMORROW. THERE'LL BE A SMALL SILVER CUP FOR THE BOY WHO CATCHES THE LARGEST FISH.
THAT'LL BE ME!

BEFORE GOING TO BED THAT NIGHT BRIAN TELLS THE BRAIN ABOUT THE FISHING COMPETITION...
I DON'T REALLY MIND WHO WINS – SO LONG AS IT ISN'T THAT BRAGGING GERALD FULLER!
I WILL TRY TO HELP YOU, BRIAN.

THE FOLLOWING MORNING, MR. DARRELL TAKES ALL THE BOYS TO THE BEACH WHERE HE HAS HIRED A FLEET OF ROWING BOATS...
IN THE BOATS YOU'LL FIND FISHING RODS AND EVERYTHING ELSE YOU WILL NEED. I SUGGEST TWO BOYS TO EACH BOAT.
I'M TAKING A BOAT TO MYSELF. I DON'T WANT ANYONE GETTING IN MY WAY!
YOU CAN BE SURE OF ONE THING, FULLER – WE'LL KEEP WELL OUT OF YOUR WAY!

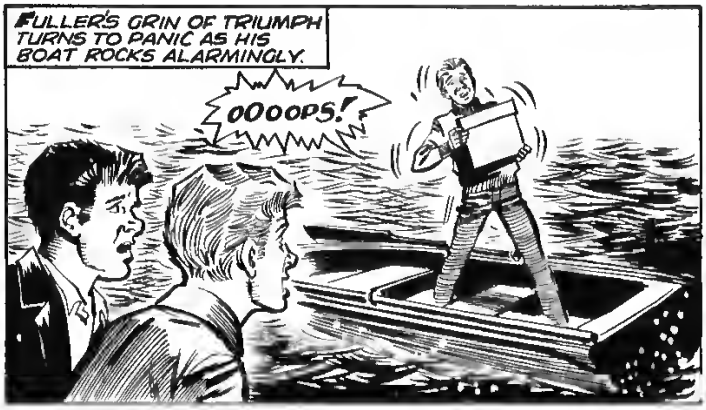
AWAY FROM THE BEACH, THE BRAIN, INSIDE ITS CARDBOARD BOX, BEGINS TO GLOW...
MAKE FOR THE POINT OF THE HEADLAND THAT SHOULD BE A GOOD SPOT!
WHATEVER YOU SAY, BRAIN!

BUT THE DAY WEARS ON AND THE BOYS CATCH NOTHING...
IT'S NEARLY TIME TO GO BACK TO THE BEACH – AND WE HAVEN'T HAD A SINGLE BITE!
ARE YOU SURE THE FISH ARE DOWN THERE, BRAIN?
THE FISH ARE THERE – BUT EVEN I CANNOT MAKE THEM TAKE YOUR BAIT IF IT DOESN'T ATTRACT THEM.

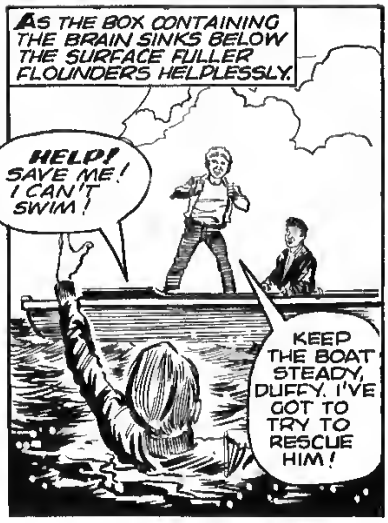
GERALD FULLER HAS ALSO BEEN OUT OF LUCK...
A WHOLE DAY'S FISHING – AND JUST A COUPLE OF TIDDLERS TO SHOW FOR IT!
I WONDER HOW KINGSLEY AND ROLLS ARE GETTING ON? I'LL ROW ACROSS AND FIND OUT!

CAN'T SEE ANY FISH. THEY MUST HAVE THEM IN THAT CARDBOARD BOX!
IT'S FULLER!

I CAN'T LET THEM BEAT ME— SO I'LL TAKE THEIR CATCH OF FISH!
HE'S GOT THE BOX!
FULLER— YOU IDIOT! YOU'LL HAVE BOTH THE BOATS OVER!


FULLER'S GRIN OF TRIUMPH TURNS TO PANIC AS HIS BOAT ROCKS ALARMINGLY.
OOOOPS!

AAAAAH!


AS THE BOX CONTAINING THE BRAIN SINKS BELOW THE SURFACE FULLER FLOUNDERS HELPLESSLY.
HELP! SAVE ME! I CAN'T SWIM!
KEEP THE BOAT STEADY, DUFFY. I'VE GOT TO TRY TO RESCUE HIM!

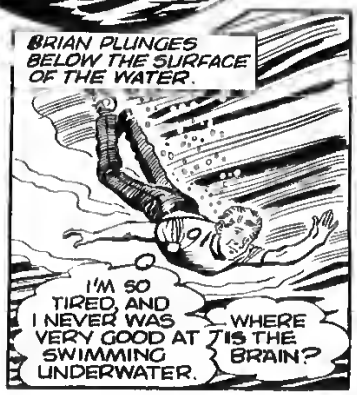
BRIAN DIVES IN TO THE RESCUE...

BRIAN IS NOT A STRONG SWIMMER AND WHEN HE REACHES FULLER THE TERRIFIED BOY CLUTCHES AT HIM DESPERATELY.
HE'LL PULL ME UNDER! IF I DON'T DO SOMETHING WE'LL BOTH DROWN!

BRIAN GATHERS HIS STRENGTH AND LANDS A PERFECT PUNCH TO FULLER'S JAW.
OUG!
GOOD! I'VE KNOCKED HIM OUT! IT WAS THE ONLY WAY!

BRIAN STRUGGLES BACK TO THE BOAT WITH HIS LIMP BURDEN.
WELL DONE, BRIAN. I CAN TAKE HIM NOW! YOU'RE NEARLY ALL IN!

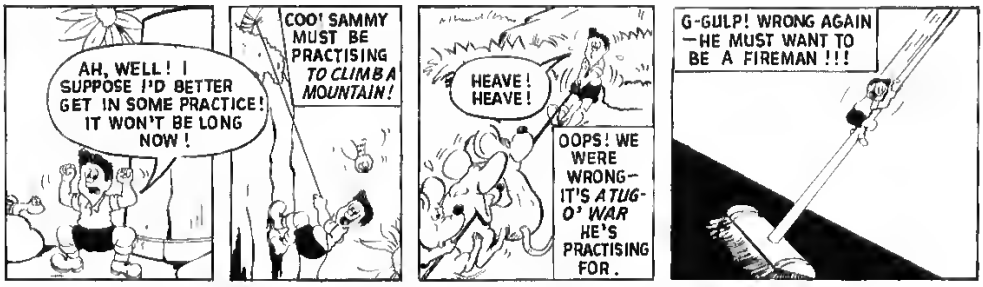
COME BACK, BRIAN! GET INTO THE BOAT!
NO, DUFFY. THE BRAIN IS SOMEWHERE ON THE SEA BED. I'VE GOT TO FIND IT!

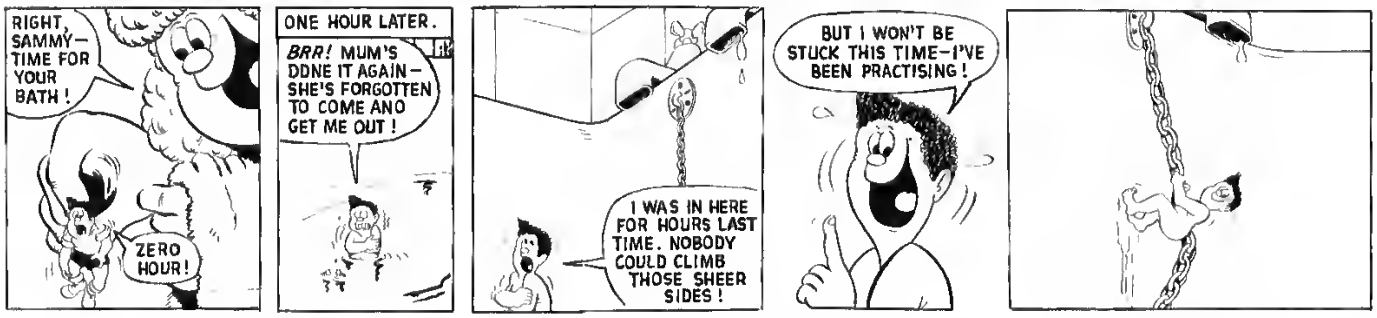

BRIAN PLUNGES BELOW THE SURFACE OF THE WATER.
I'M SO TIRED, AND I NEVER WAS VERY GOOD AT SWIMMING UNDERWATER.
WHERE IS THE BRAIN?

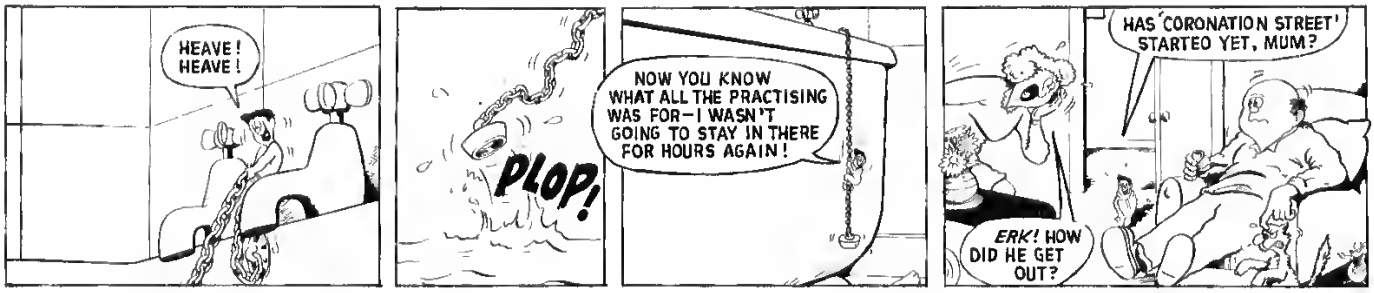
THE BRAIN IS NOT FAR AWAY.
I CAN SENSE BRIAN SEARCHING FOR ME. I MUST AID HIM.

SUDDENLY BRIAN FINDS HIMSELF SWIMMING WITH A NEW SKILL.
I CAN SENSE THE BRAIN HELPING ME! GUIDING ME!
JUST AS BRIAN'S TORTURED LUNGS THREATEN TO BURST...
THE BRAIN! THERE IT IS! I'VE FOUND IT!
BUT THEN BRIAN SEES SOMETHING ELSE THE MENACING SHAPE OF A HUGE FISH.
IT'S A GIANT TOPE! AND IT'S ATTACKING THE BRAIN!
HELP ME, BRIAN! YOU HAVE YOUR FISHING KNIFE IN YOUR POCKET! BUT BE QUICK!
AS BRIAN DRAGS THE KNIFE FROM HIS POCKET THE GREAT FISH TURNS TOWARDS HIM AS THOUGH SCENTING DANGER.
BRIAN STRIKES OUT ALMOST BLINDLY
I MUST HAVE HIT THE FISH. IT'S GONE!
NOW— IF I HAVE THE STRENGTH TO CARRY THE BRAIN TO THE SURFACE!..
SECONDS LATER BRIAN'S ACHING LUNGS GULP AIR.
YOU GOT THE BRAIN, BRIAN! I'LL HAVE YOU ABOARD IN TWO SHAKES!
AS BRIAN TOPPLES INTO THE BOAT BESIDE THE STILL UNCONSCIOUS GERALD FULLER, DUFFY GIVES AN EXCITED CRY.
WOW! JUST LOOK AT THAT FISH! WHAT A WHOPPER!
IT'S THE BIG TOPE I KILLED TO STOP IT ATTACKING THE BRAIN IT'S COME TO THE SURFACE!
THE BRAIN IS UNDAMAGED, BUT I MUST HIDE IT BEFORE FULLER RECOVERS HIS SENSES.
AND WHILE YOU'RE DOING THAT I'M GOING TO GET THAT TOPE. AFTER ALL, BRIAN— IT'S YOUR FISH!
AND WHEN THE JUDGING IS HELD ON THE BEACH THERE IS NO DOUBT AS TO WHO IS THE WINNER OF THE FISHING COMPETITION.
THE PRIZE GOES TO BRIAN KINGSLEY FOR THE MOST MAGNIFICENT SPECIMEN OF A TOPE I HAVE EVER SEEN
AND ONLY DUFFY AND I KNOW THAT THE BAIT WAS THE BRAIN!
The End.

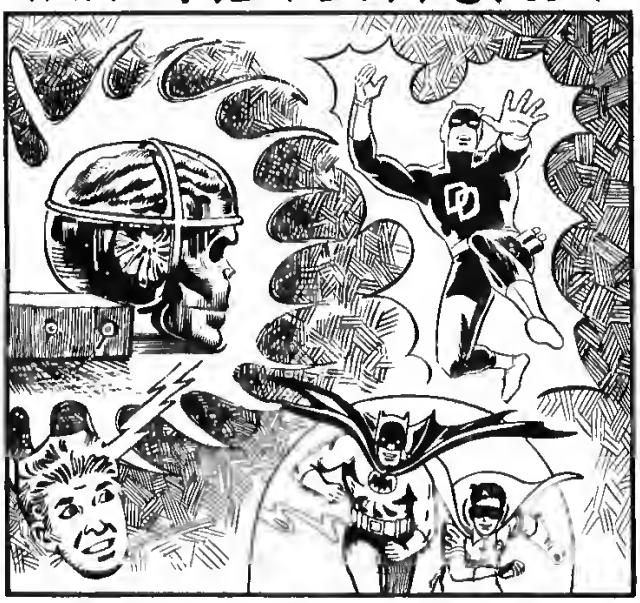
SAMMY SHRINK

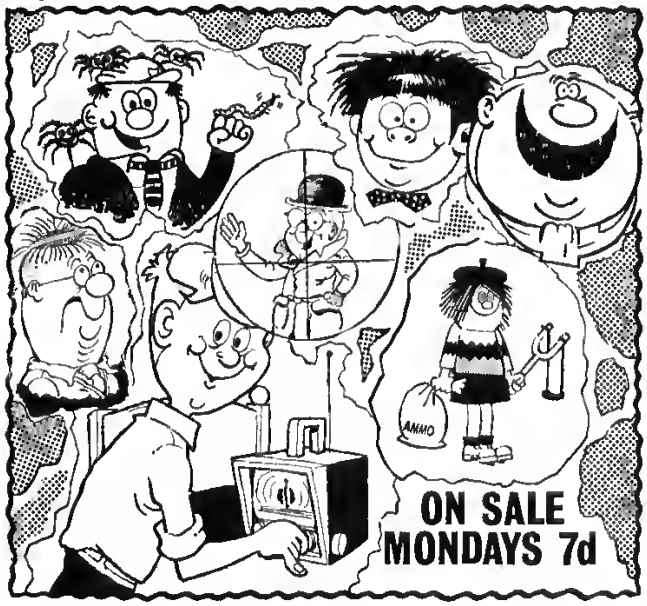






WANT ADVENTURE? LOOKING FOR LAUGHS?





ON SALE MONDAYS 7d

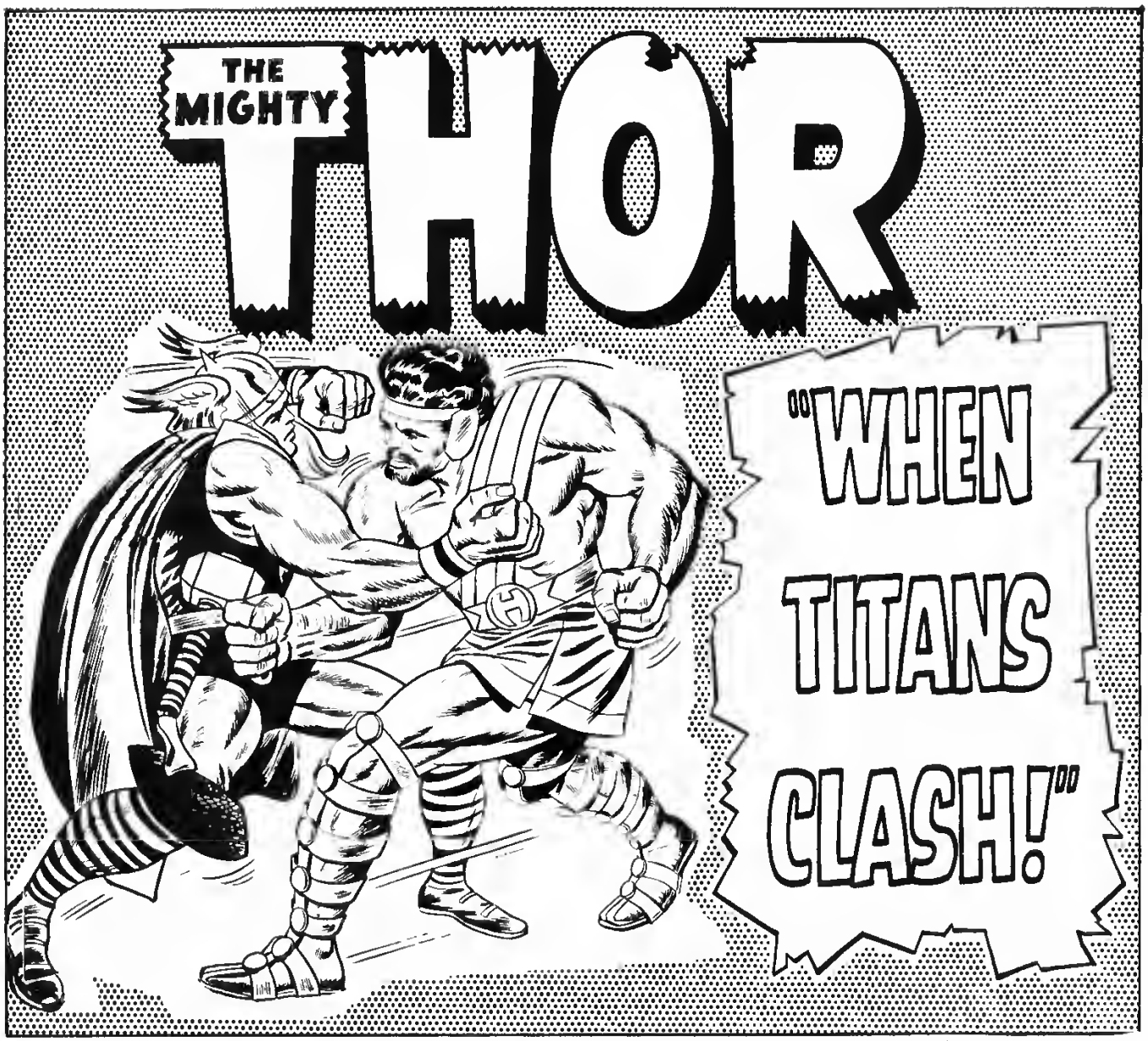
YOU WANT...

SMASH!

THE COMIC WITH EVERYTHING ALL THE YEAR ROUND!

THE MIGHTY THOR

REG. T.M. & © MARVEL COMICS GROUP



Reg T M & © Marvel Comics Group 1965

If the great Thunder God THOR has his match in strength, courage and immortal power... then surely it can only be in his Olympian Counterpart, the son of Zeus, named HERCULES! And if such titans of noble battle should clash, who would be victor?...

THE LEGENDS TELL US THAT THE STORM GIANTS WERE HURLED OUT OF OLYMPUS AGES AGO! THUS, IT IS MY DUTY TO PREVENT THEM FROM EVER RETURNING!
AT LAST WE HAVE FOUND THE HIDDEN ENTRANCE!!
AFTER ALL THESE CENTURIES WE SHALL RETURN... TO MENACE OLYMPUS ANEW!

NOT WHILE THOR LIVES!! I STRIKE FOR ODIN AND VICTORY!
THE GOD OF THUNDER! YOU DARE COME HERE??!
ONE BLOW OF MY MIGHTY SPEAR WILL SMASH YOU LIKE A WORM!

NEVER DID A WORM POSSESS A URU HAMMER... SUCH AS THOR'S!

LOKI!! TO MY SIDE!
NO ANSWER! THE FAITHLESS ONE HAS FLED!!

SO BE IT! THEN THOR SHALL BATTLE ALONE!
BEGONE, EVIL ONES! YOU ARE NO MATCH FOR THE SON OF ODIN!

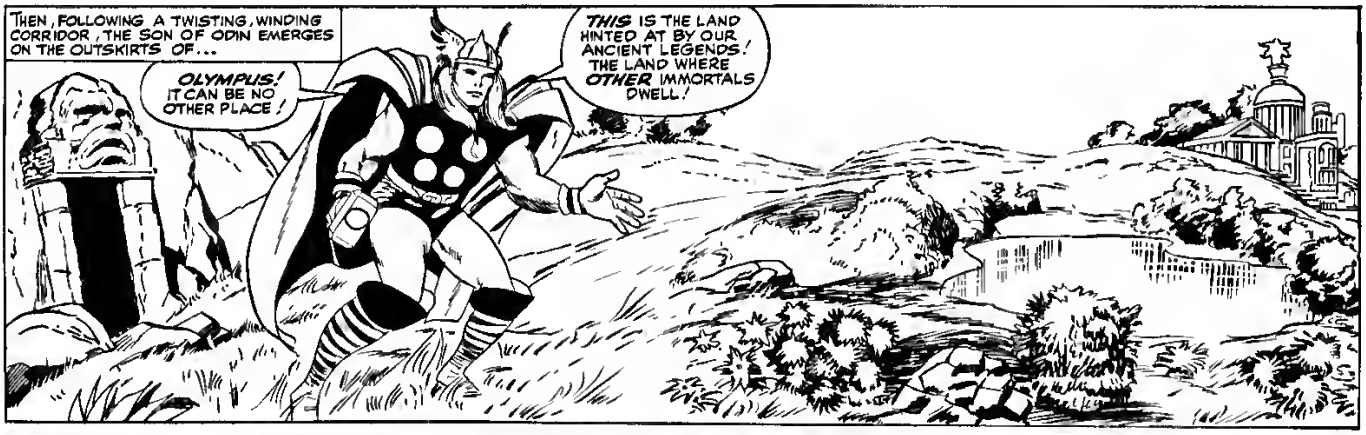
IF OLYMPUS TRULY EXISTS, THE LIKES OF YOU SHALL NEVER THREATEN IT!

BACK, I SAY!! GET YOU BACK!!
NONE CAN FACE THE FLASHING FURY OF THOR!

BUT, EVEN AS THE GALLANT THUNDER GOD'S POUNDING ATTACK DRIVES HIS TWO GIGANTIC FOES INTO FULL RETREAT, THE UNIMAGINABLE FORCE OF THOR'S HAMMER BLOWS CAUSES THE VERY GROUND BENEATH HIS FEET TO CRUMBLE IN A SUDDEN ROCK SLIDE...!
I HAVE CAUSED AN AVALANCHE! THE GROUND IS SHATTERED BELOW ME!

THUS, THE THUNDER GOD FALLS.. FOR TIME WITHOUT END..THROUGH A VAST VOID OF HEAVY NOTHINGNESS...OF SHIMMERING ENERGY BARRIERS AND MYSTIC SPACE DISRUPTERS... UNTIL HE REALIZES...
THIS IS NO ORDINARY FALL! I HAVE UNWITTINGLY CRASHED THROUGH THE HIDDEN ENTRANCE TO... OLYMPUS!

FINALLY, HIS SPEED IS SLACKENED AS THE STRANGE, SUPERNATURAL JOURNEY REACHES ITS CONCLUSION, AND THOR FINDS HIMSELF WITHIN...
A SHADOWY CHAMBER... LIKE NOTHING I HAVE EVER SEEN IN ASGARD!

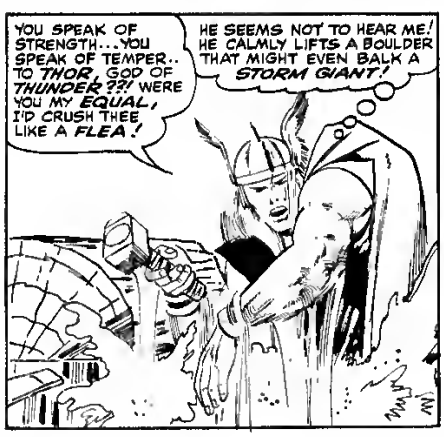

THEN, FOLLOWING A TWISTING, WINDING CORRIDOR, THE SON OF ODIN EMERGES ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF...
OLYMPUS! IT CAN BE NO OTHER PLACE!
THIS IS THE LAND HINTED AT BY OUR ANCIENT LEGENDS! THE LAND WHERE OTHER IMMORTALS DWELL!

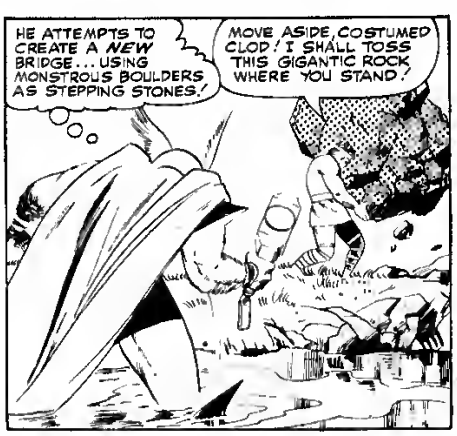
IT IS SO DIFFERENT FROM THE HOME I HAVE KNOWN, AND YET... IN MANY WAYS... IT BEARS GREAT RESEMBLANCE TO FABLED ASGARD!

BUT, I MUST SEEK A WAY BACK TO THE GOLDEN CITY! I SHALL CROSS THAT CRUDE BRIDGE AND SEEK INFORMATION FROM THE ONE WHO STANDS THUS BOLDLY!
HOLD! COME NO FURTHER! YOU MAY CROSS YON BRIDGE ONLY AFTER HERCULES HAS DONE SO!

IF THERE BE ROOM FOR ONLY ONE TO CROSS AT A TIME, THAT ONE SHALL BE THOR, WHO BACKS OFF TO NO MAN!
THE MADNESS MUST BE UPON THEE .. TO DARE DEFY THE WILL OF HERCULES!

AND THEN, BEFORE ANOTHER WORD CAN BE UTTERED...
HE UPROOTED THE BRIDGE WITH ONE SIMPLE MOTION!! THIS IS NO POWERLESS BUMPKIN I FACE!
BE THUS WARNED! MY STRENGTH IS THE EQUAL OF MY TEMPER!


YOU SPEAK OF STRENGTH... YOU SPEAK OF TEMPER.. TO THOR, GOD OF THUNDER??? WERE YOU MY EQUAL, I'D CRUSH THEE LIKE A FLEA!
HE SEEMS NOT TO HEAR ME! HE CALMLY LIFTS A BOULDER THAT MIGHT EVEN BALK A STORM GIANT!


HE ATTEMPTS TO CREATE A NEW BRIDGE... USING MONSTROUS BOULDERS AS STEPPING STONES!
MOVE ASIDE, COSTUMED CLOD! I SHALL TOSS THIS GIGANTIC ROCK WHERE YOU STAND!

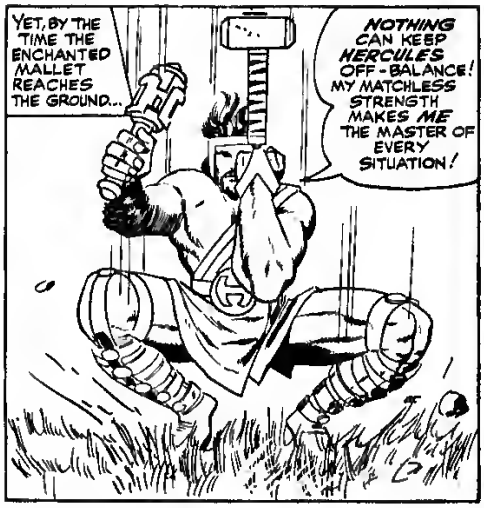
IF YOU SEEK TO IMPRESS ME WITH YOUR POWER, HERCULES, YOU WASTE YOUR EFFORT!
BEGONE, BRASH ONE! THY RANTING BEGINS TO BORE ME!

I SHALL BORE THEE NO MORE, INSOLENT ONE! MY HAMMER SHALL NOW SPEAK FOR ME!
HE WITNESSES MY STRENGTH, YET STILL HE PROVOKES ME!
WHAT MANNER OF FOOL CAN HE BE??

AS EASILY AS YOU CAN LIFT THAT BOULDER, MIGHTY THOR CAN SHATTER IT TO BITS!
BY ZEUS, ARROGANT ONE! THOU HAST TRULY GONE TOO FAR!

THY HAMMER POSSESSES POWER INDEED... BUT THE GOLDEN MACE OF HERCULES SHALL PROVE MORE THAN THY MATCH!
GUARD THYSELF, THEN! FOR I SHALL TEACH THEE A LESSON IN MANNERS THAT SHALL NEVER BE FORGOTTEN!

FIRST, I CATCH YOUR WRIST ON MY HAMMER'S THONG, HURLING YOU OFF-BALANCE AS EASILY AS I MIGHT SNAP A TWIG!


YET, BY THE TIME THE ENCHANTED MALLET REACHES THE GROUND...
NOTHING CAN KEEP HERCULES OFF-BALANCE! MY MATCHLESS STRENGTH MAKES ME THE MASTER OF EVERY SITUATION!

BUT, NO SOONER DOES THE HAMMER RETURN TO EARTH, THAN IT AGAIN TOPPLES HERCULES AS IT WRENCHES ITSELF OFF HIS WRIST AND HURTLES BACK TO THOR!
BY JUPITER!! THE MALLET SEEMS TO BE ALIVE!

BUT NOW, ENOUGH OF HAMMER AND MACE! I SHALL THRASH YOU ROUNDLY, AS YOU WELL DESERVE, WITH MY BARE FISTS!
AGREED! I, TOO, SHALL FIGHT WITHOUT WEAPON!!

BEFORE THE THUNDER GOD CAN RELEASE HIS HAMMER, THE MOST POWERFUL BLOW HE HAS EVER FELT SLAMS HIM TO THE GROUND...
NONE CAN RESIST THE SMASHING ATTACK OF HERCULES!

WHAT??! YOU GAIN YOUR FEET SO QUICKLY?! WHAT MANNER OF WARRIOR ART THOU??!
I AM THOR! THE ONE WHO SHALL PUMMEL THEE TO THY KNEES!

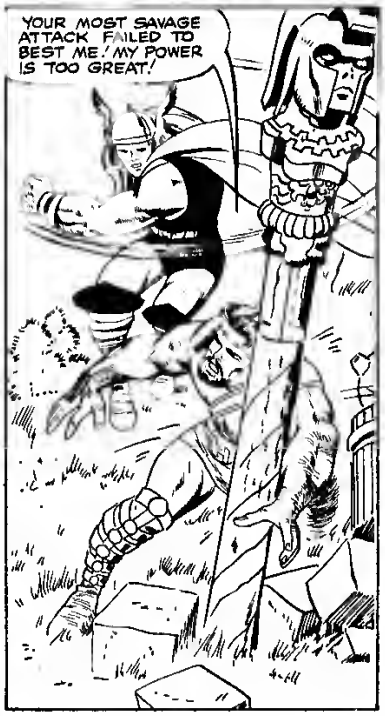
AND THEN, WITH ONE SINGLE, SMASHING BLOW, THE THUNDER GOD DOES WHAT NO LIVING BEING HAS EVER DONE BEFORE... HE BATTERS HERCULES OFF HIS FEET!!
WHOP!

NOW IT IS THOR'S TURN TO BE AMAZED...!
YOU RECOVER WITHIN SECONDS! I HAVE NEVER SEEN THE LIKE!

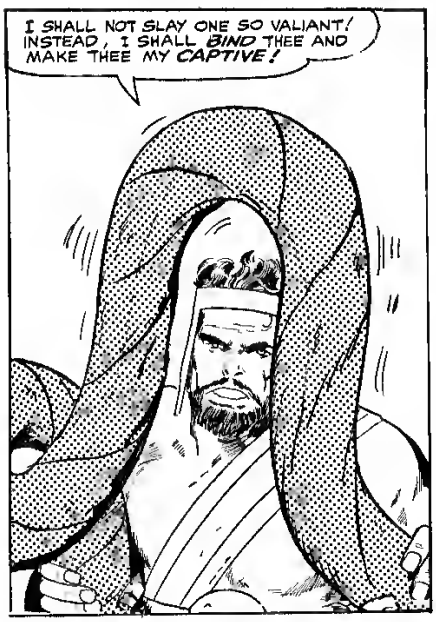
BY THE GOLDEN SPIRES, YOU FIGHT LIKE A SON OF ODIN!
WHILST THY STRENGTH IS WORTHY OF ZEUS HIMSELF!! BUT, STILL SHALL HERCULES PREVAIL!

SEE HOW I WHIP THEE AWAY FROM ME WITH AN ARM WHICH CAN FELL THE TALLEST TREE!
BUT, SEE HOW I FORCE BACK THAT ARM, AND HURL THEE BACKWARDS TO THE GROUND!

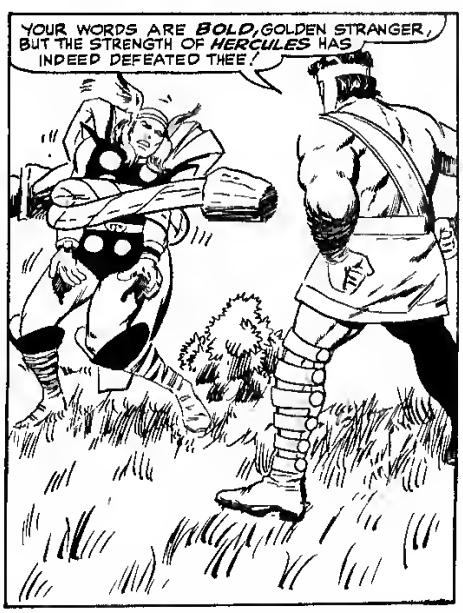
YIELD, HERCULES!! YIELD TO THOR, GOD OF THUNDER... PRINCE OF VIKINGS... SON OF ODIN!
NEVER!!


YOUR MOST SAVAGE ATTACK FAILED TO BEST ME! MY POWER IS TOO GREAT!

AND NOW, IT IS MY TURN! NOW SHALL THOR FACE THE FURY OF HERCULES' ATTACK!

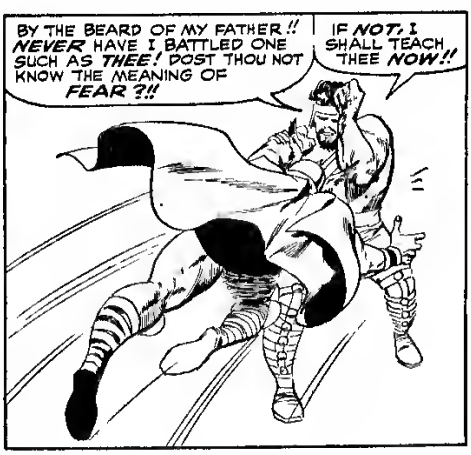

I SHALL NOT SLAY ONE SO VALIANT! INSTEAD, I SHALL BIND THEE AND MAKE THEE MY CAPTIVE!

NONE BUT HERCULES CAN BEND THE ENCHANTED POLE OF HEROES! IT SHALL MAKE THEE MY PRISONER!
FIE!! YOU UTTER THE MOUTHINGS OF A JESTER!


YOUR WORDS ARE BOLD, GOLDEN STRANGER, BUT THE STRENGTH OF HERCULES HAS INDEED DEFEATED THEE!

BUT THEN, IN A SAVAGE PAROXYSM OF ANGER, THOR'S IRON MUSCLES BEGIN TO TENSE AND SWELL AS HIS FIGHTING HEART RAGES WITHIN HIM, UNTIL...
THOR... DEFEATED BY HERCULES.. ???

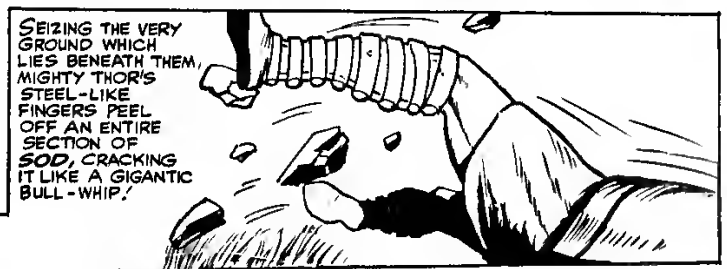
NEVER!!!

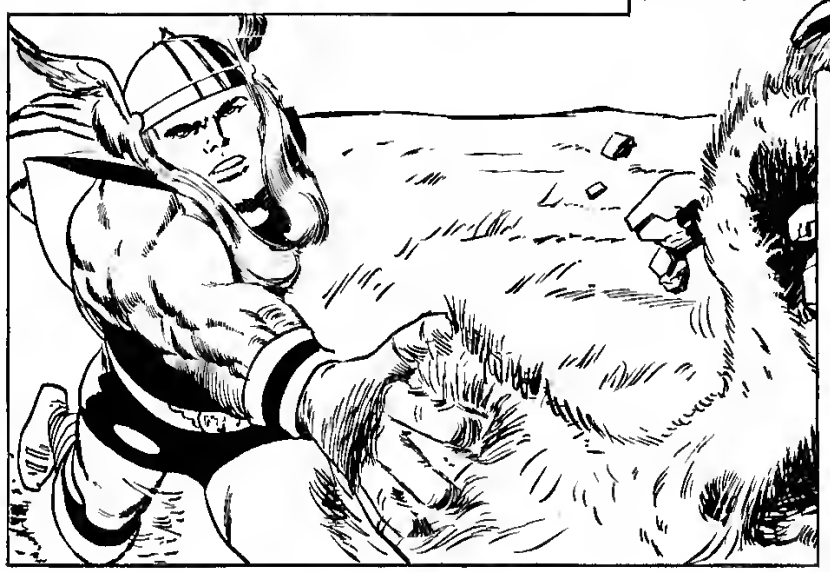

BY THE BEARD OF MY FATHER!! NEVER HAVE I BATTLED ONE SUCH AS THEE! DOST THOU NOT KNOW THE MEANING OF FEAR?!!
IF NOT, I SHALL TEACH THEE NOW!!

I SHALL STRIKE ONE SPOT OVER AND OVER AGAIN, UNTIL YOU BEG FOR RESPITE! ONLY THEN SHALL THIS BATTLE END!

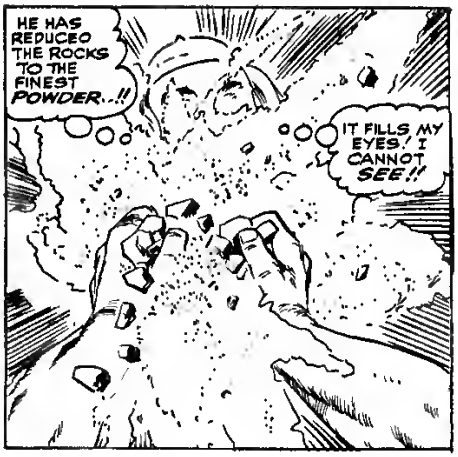
AGAIN AND AGAIN, HERCULES STRIKES THE THUNDER GOD UPON THE SAME SPOT... EACH BLOW STRONGER THAN THE ONE BEFORE!!
ANY OTHER WOULD HAVE CRUMBLED LONG AGO! NEVER DID I THINK I'D BATTLE ONE WHOSE STRENGTH COULD MATCH MY OWN!

THEN, SUDDENLY...
NOW HE FALLS!! BUT, DID MY ATTACK TOPPLE HIM? OR DID HE LOSE HIS FOOTING ON THE DEW-COVERED GRASS?
YOU HAVE DONE YOUR UTMOST! NOW, YOU SHALL FEEL THE POWER OF THE THUNDER GOD ONCE MORE...!


SEIZING THE VERY GROUND WHICH LIES BENEATH THEM, MIGHTY THOR'S STEEL-LIKE FINGERS PEEL OFF AN ENTIRE SECTION OF SOD, CRACKING IT LIKE A GIGANTIC BULL-WHIP!



AND NOW TO BRING THIS TO AN END! THOSE ROCKS CANNOT STOP THOR!
IN THE HANDS OF HERCULES THEY ARE MORE THAN ROCKS..!


HE HAS REDUCED THE ROCKS TO THE FINEST POWDER..!!
IT FILLS MY EYES! I CANNOT SEE!!

I'LL HAVE TO LEAP FORWARD... KEEP SWINGING BLINDLY... HOLD HIM AT BAY, UNTIL MY EYES CLEAR!!
IF I AM EVER TO GAIN FINAL VICTORY, IT MUST BE NOW!

AT THAT SPLIT-SECOND, THOR RECEIVES THE MOST POWERFUL BLOW EVER INFLICTED UPON MAN OR IMMORTAL...

... BUT, BY A SUPREME EFFORT, MANAGES TO STAY ON HIS FEET AND DELIVER AN EQUALLY STRONG COUNTER-BLOW...!!

THEN, BEFORE EITHER COMBATANT CAN MAKE ANOTHER MOVE, A SUDDEN CATACLYSMIC GROUND SWELL HURLS THEM BOTH INTO THE AIR...!

AND, WHEN THE UPHEAVAL SUBSIDES...
LET THE FIGHTING CEASE!!

...WHEN THE DAZED COMBATANTS TURN, THEY SEE ONE OF THE MOST AWESOME FIGURES OF ALL TIME STRIDING MAJESTICALLY TOWARD THEM...
IT IS MY FATHER... THE VENERATED ZEUS!! HAIL, SUPREME ONE
ZEUS! THE MONARCH OF OLYMPUS, EVEN AS ODIN IS LORD OF ASGARD!
I HAVE WITNESSED YOUR BATTLE AND FOUND IT HONOURABLE! IN TRUTH, YOU ARE EACH DESERVING OF VICTORY!

YOUR WORDS HAVE THE WISDOM OF MINE OWN FATHER, WHO IS ALSO A SOVEREIGN, MY LORD!
RISE, VALOROUS STRANGER! THY COURAGE AND THY RESPECT DO THEE CREDIT, AND REFLECT HONOUR UPON THY LIEGE!

NOW CLASP YOU EACH OTHER'S HAND, FOR TRULY HAVE YOU THE POWER AND NOBILITY OF PRINCELY IMMORTALS!
THE FRIENDSHIP OF HERCULES IS THINE!
SO TOO DOES THOR CALL HERCULES FRIEND!

BUT NOW, I MUST TO MY OWN KINGDOM RETURN, FOR MANY ARE THE TASKS THAT AWAIT ME!
THEN RETURN YOU SHALL... FOR THE WILL OF ZEUS IS SUPREME IN IMPERIAL OLYMPUS!

TO THINE OWN WORLD I DISPATCH THEE, BY THE POWERS AT MY COMMAND!
THEN 'TIS HAIL AND FAREWELL...

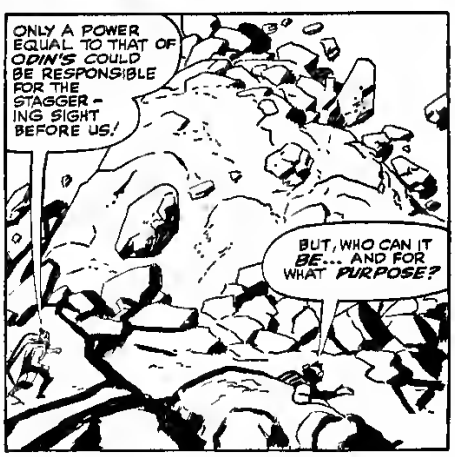
THOR! YOU RETURN! BUT, FROM WHERE??
IT MATTERS NOT! ALREADY, THE MEMORY GROWS DIM WITHIN ME..!

I HAD THOUGHT THAT YOU WERE DEAD!
AND THE THOUGHT IS OFTEN INSPIRED BY THE WISH, IS IT NOT, LOKI?

BUT, WHAT OF YOU, BROTHER? YOU RAN OFF WHILST I FOUGHT THE STORM GIANTS!
HOW YOU WRONG ME, THOR! I MERELY FLED TO SEARCH FOR HELP!

BACK, LOKI! SOME INCALCULABLE POWER IS AT WORK HERE!
BOULDERS! BEING HURLED FROM THE PIT BELOW!

IT IS THE WORK OF THE STORM GIANTS! WE SHOULD NEVER HAVE COME TO THIS ACCURSED LAND!
NO STORM GIANTS LIVE WHO COULD ACCOMPLISH SUCH A FEAT WITH SUCH BLINDING SPEED!

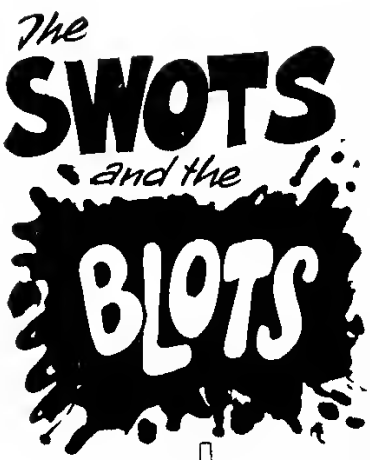

ONLY A POWER EQUAL TO THAT OF ODIN'S COULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE STAGGERING SIGHT BEFORE US!
BUT, WHO CAN IT BE... AND FOR WHAT PURPOSE?

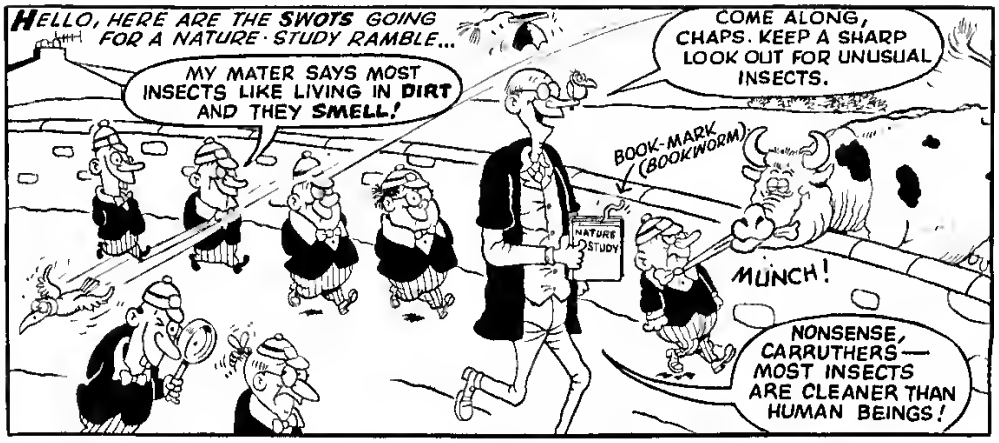
IT IS BEST THAT LOKI NEVER KNOWS! FOR, HE WOULD SURELY USE THE KNOWLEDGE OF OLYMPUS TO SERVE HIS OWN EVIL ENDS!

ZEUS HAS CREATED A MOUNTAIN TO FOREVER SEAL OFF THE HIDDEN ENTRANCE TO HIS REALM!

BUT, SOMEDAY I SHALL LEARN MORE OF THAT LAND WHERE IMMORTALS DWELL... SOMEDAY I SHALL AGAIN MEET... HERCULES!

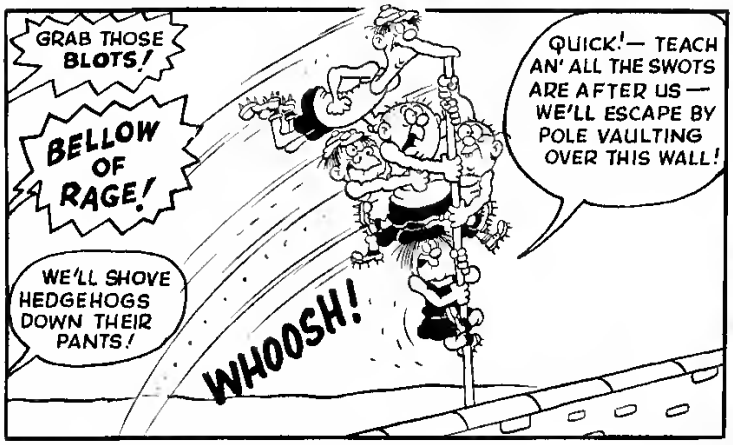
FOR TIME IS ENDLESS, AND MY TRUE DESTINY HAS YET TO BE FULFILLED!
THUS, THE GOD OF THUNDER KEEPS HIS SECRET LOCKED WITHIN HIM! BUT, ONE DAY THAT SECRET WILL BE EXPOSED, AND WHEN IT IS, WE SHALL ALL SHARE THE THRILLS TOGETHER!
FINIS

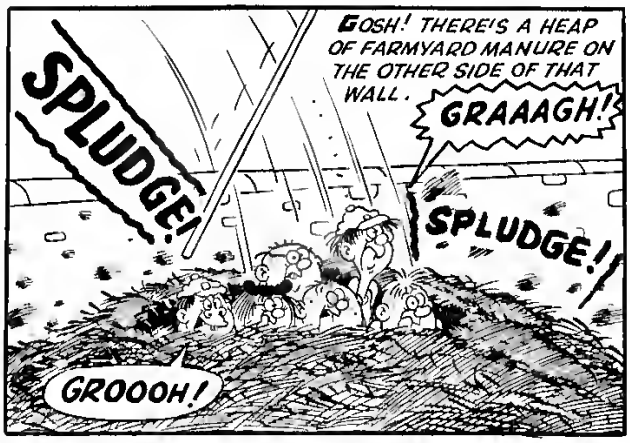

The
SWOTS
and the
BLOTS

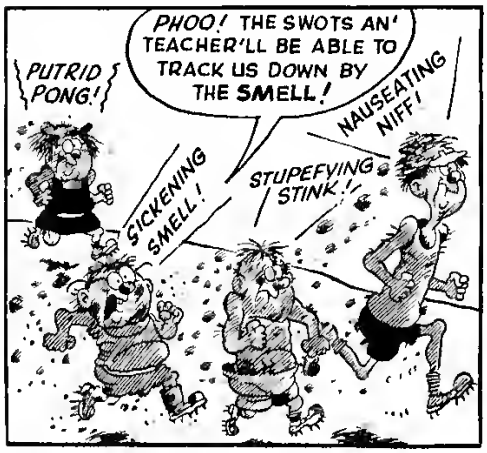

HELLO, HERE ARE THE SWOTS GOING FOR A NATURE-STUDY RAMBLE...
MY MATER SAYS MOST INSECTS LIKE LIVING IN DIRT AND THEY SMELL!
COME ALONG, CHAPS. KEEP A SHARP LOOK OUT FOR UNUSUAL INSECTS.
BOOK-MARK (BOOKWORM)
NATURE STUDY
MUNCH!
NONSENSE, CARRUTHERS — MOST INSECTS ARE CLEANER THAN HUMAN BEINGS!

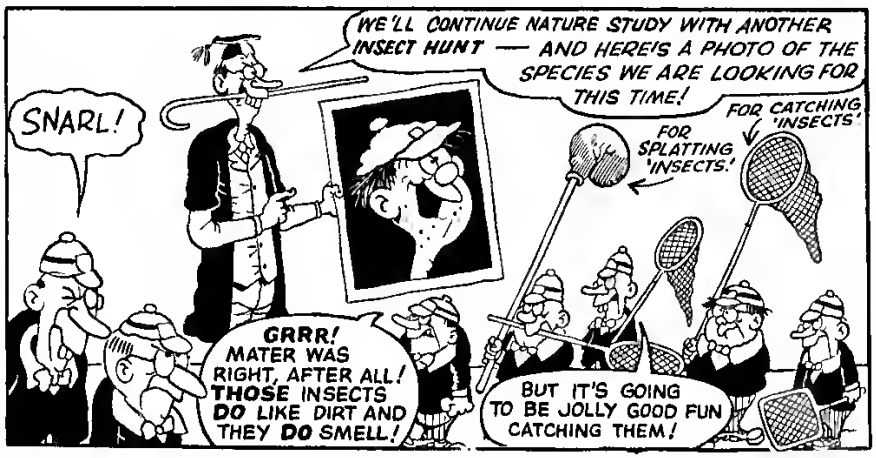
HERE'S A LOAD OF UNUSUAL SPECIMENS — THE BLOTS GOING FOR A RUN...
WE'LL PRACTISE AN' PRACTISE TO MAKE SURE WE WIN THE SCHOOL SPORTS THIS YEAR.

TOO BAD — THE SWOTS ARE LOOKING FOR UNUSUAL INSECTS IN THE DITCH AT THE VERY MOMENT THE BLOTS LEAP THE HEDGE!
JAB
JAB
JAB
JAB
AAAAGH!
AWK!


GRAB THOSE BLOTS!
BELLOW OF RAGE!
WE'LL SHOVE HEDGEHOGS DOWN THEIR PANTS!
WHOOSH!
QUICK! — TEACH AN' ALL THE SWOTS ARE AFTER US — WE'LL ESCAPE BY POLE VAULTING OVER THIS WALL!


GOSH! THERE'S A HEAP OF FARMYARD MANURE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THAT WALL.
GRAAAGH!
SPLUDGE!
SPLUDGE!
GROOOH!


PUTRID PONG!
PHOO! THE SWOTS AN' TEACHER'LL BE ABLE TO TRACK US DOWN BY THE SMELL!
NAUSEATING NIFF!
SICKENING SMELL!
STUPEFYING STINK!

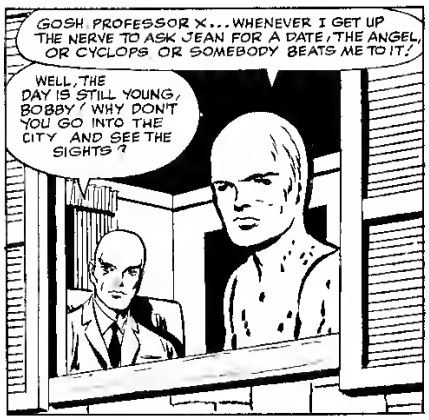

WE'LL CONTINUE NATURE STUDY WITH ANOTHER INSECT HUNT — AND HERE'S A PHOTO OF THE SPECIES WE ARE LOOKING FOR THIS TIME!
SNARL!
FOR CATCHING 'INSECTS'
FOR SPLATTING 'INSECTS.'
GRRR! MATER WAS RIGHT, AFTER ALL! THOSE INSECTS DO LIKE DIRT AND THEY DO SMELL!
BUT IT'S GOING TO BE JOLLY GOOD FUN CATCHING THEM!

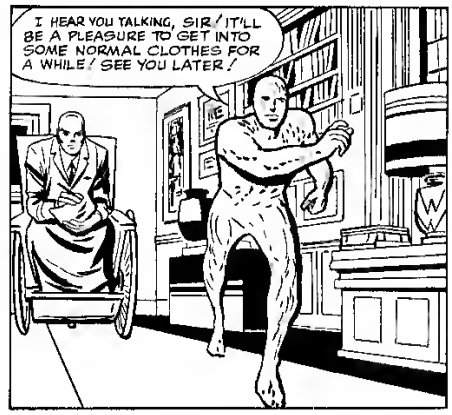
Reg. T.M. & © Marvel Comics Group, 1964

"A FROZEN VERSION OF THE HUMAN TORCH "EH? I DON'T THINK THAT'S SO FUNNY!
THAT'S IT! YAK YAK YAK! WHILE I DO ALL THE WORK BACK HERE! PHOOEY!
FORGET IT, KID! IT'S PROBABLY MEANT AS A COMPLIMENT TO YOU!

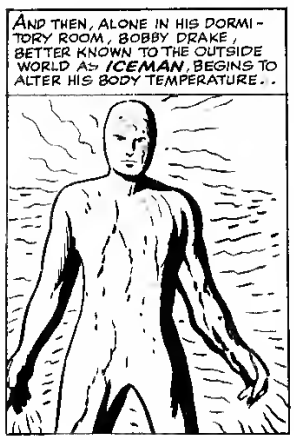
WELL, I'M NOT GOING TO LOSE ANY SLEEP OVER THAT WALKING FROZEN CUSTARD! HERE'S THE PAPER, BOSS MAN! I'VE GOT A DATE WITH DORIS TONIGHT!
WE'RE TAKING A BOAT RIDE ON THE RIVER! WHISPERING WAVES SOFT BREEZES, MOONLIGHT MMM, BOY!
HMM! MY LITTLE BROTHER IS CERTAINLY GROWING UP!

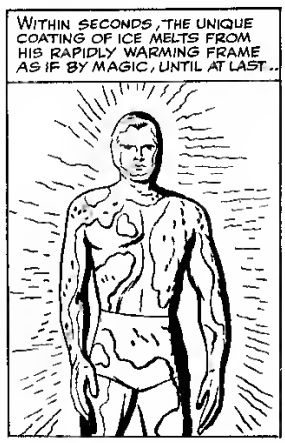
MEANWHILE, NOT SO FAR AWAY, AT PROFESSOR XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS. THE TRAINING GROUNDS FOR THE MYSTERIOUS X-MEN..
PUT ON YOUR DRESSIEST DUDS, DREAM GIRL, AND WE'LL GO OUT STEPPING!
I'LL BE WITH YOU IN TWO SHAKES, WARREN!


GOSH, PROFESSOR X... WHENEVER I GET UP THE NERVE TO ASK JEAN FOR A DATE, THE ANGEL, OR CYCLOPS OR SOMEBODY BEATS ME TO IT!
WELL, THE DAY IS STILL YOUNG, BOBBY! WHY DON'T YOU GO INTO THE CITY AND SEE THE SIGHTS?

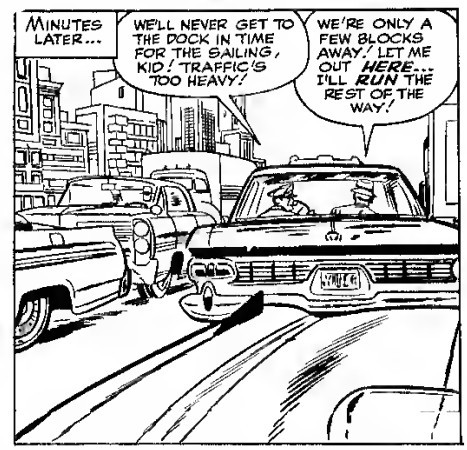

I HEAR YOU TALKING, SIR! IT'LL BE A PLEASURE TO GET INTO SOME NORMAL CLOTHES FOR A WHILE! SEE YOU LATER!

SAY! THIS MIGHT BE JUST WHAT THE DOCTOR ORDERED! THERE ARE ALWAYS A LOT OF SWINGIN' TEENS ON THESE CRUISES!
SEE OUR CITY BY GOTHAM Boat Line DAILY CRUISES


AND THEN, ALONE IN HIS DORMITORY ROOM, BOBBY DRAKE, BETTER KNOWN TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD AS ICEMAN, BEGINS TO ALTER HIS BODY TEMPERATURE..


WITHIN SECONDS, THE UNIQUE COATING OF ICE MELTS FROM HIS RAPIDLY WARMING FRAME AS IF BY MAGIC, UNTIL AT LAST..

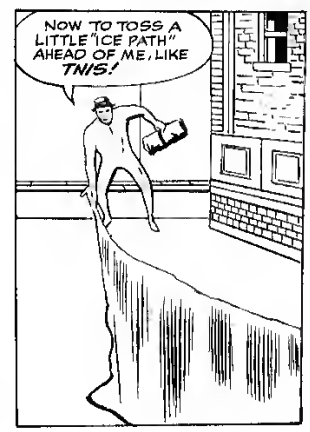
SO LONG, ICEMAN! HELLO, BOBBY DRAKE! BRRR...IT'S CHILLY WITHOUT MY ICY COATING!


MINUTES LATER...
WE'LL NEVER GET TO THE DOCK IN TIME FOR THE SAILING, KID! TRAFFIC'S TOO HEAVY!
WE'RE ONLY A FEW BLOCKS AWAY! LET ME OUT HERE... I'LL RUN THE REST OF THE WAY!

UH-OH! TOO LATE! THE BOAT'S PULLING OUT ALREADY!

BUT, IF BOBBY DRAKE CAN'T CATCH IT, MAYBE ICEMAN CAN!

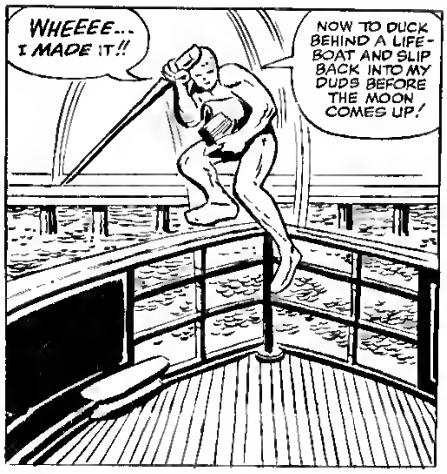
LUCKY THE STREET'S DESERTED DOWN HERE! I DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT BEING SEEN!


NOW TO TOSS A LITTLE "ICE PATH" AHEAD OF ME, LIKE THIS!

A Power House
PIN-UP
THE TORCH
THE ICEMAN
Take it from
ole hot-head
and me!
You fans are
the coolest!

AND AWAAAAY WE GO!

I CAN STILL CATCH IT IF I CAN FASHION A FROZEN VAULTING POLE IN TIME!


WHEEEE... I MADE IT!!
NOW TO DUCK BEHIND A LIFE-BOAT AND SLIP BACK INTO MY DUDS BEFORE THE MOON COMES UP!

AND SO...
THERE ARE A ZILLION GIRLS HERE, JUST AS I HOPED... BUT THEY'VE ALL GOT DATES!
WAIT A MINUTE! THERE'S A REAL DOLL STANDING BY THE RAILING... AND SHE'S ALONE!

PARDON ME, MISS! MY NAME'S BOBBY DRAKE, AND I WAS WONDERING...??
THE ANSWER, MY EAGER FRIEND, IS NO!

I HAPPEN TO BE HERE WITH A DATE! AND JUST BETWEEN US, THERE'S NOT A TEEN-AGER ANYWHERE WHO'S HIS MATCH! THAT'S A PUN, SON!
ZAT SO? HE MUST BE QUITE A GUY.. WHOEVER HE IS!

YOU CAN SAY THAT AGAIN, BOBBY! HE'S MERELY THE GREATEST! THERE'S NO ONE LIKE HIM!
IF YOU'LL FORGIVE MY CURIOSITY... WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT HIM ??

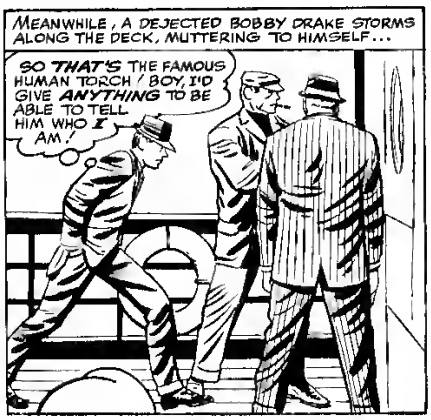
DOES THIS ANSWER YOUR QUESTION, FELLA?
GULP! THE HUMAN TORCH!

DON'T BE ANGRY, JOHNNY! HE WASN'T BEING FRESH...HE JUST THOUGHT I WAS ALONE!
WHO'S ANGRY? I HEARD WHAT YOU SAID ABOUT ME, DORIS... AND I'M FLYIN'!
WELL, I DON'T SUPPOSE IT'LL BREAK ANY HEARTS IF I SHOVE OFF...

SO THERE'S NO ONE LIKE HIM, EH? AND HE'S MERELY THE GREATEST, IS HE? WELL, WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT! I'LL WAIT TILL HE'S NOT LOOKING, AND THEN...

SECONDS LATER...
WHAT IN BLAZES HAPPENED TO MY SODA? IT'S FROZEN SOLID!! OF ALL THE....!!

THAT SHOULDN'T BOTHER YOU, JOHNNY! ALL YOU'VE GOT TO DO IS WARM THEM UP A BIT!
YOU'RE RIGHT, DORRIE! THERE! THAT'S MORE LIKE IT! BUT I STILL WONDER HOW IT HAPPENED?


MEANWHILE, A DEJECTED BOBBY DRAKE STORMS ALONG THE DECK, MUTTERING TO HIMSELF...
SO THAT'S THE FAMOUS HUMAN TORCH! BOY, I'D GIVE ANYTHING TO BE ABLE TO TELL HIM WHO I AM!

WOULDN'T THAT HAVE OPENED UP DORIS' EYES AND...
LOOK WHERE YOU'RE GOIN' SHRIMP!
YEAH! OPEN YOUR EYES, SQUIRT!
OOPS! SORRY! I DIDN'T SEE YOU FELLAS!

I'LL IGNORE THEM! PROFESSOR X WOULDN'T WANT ME GETTING INTO A FIGHT ON MY DAY OFF!
OKAY, CHUM! IT'S TIME NOW! LET'S GET MOVIN'!

BREAKING INTO THE SHIP'S RADIO ROOM, THE TWO MEN RUTHLESSLY DESTROY ALL MEANS OF SHIP-TO-SHORE COMMUNICATION...
OKAY, SIGNAL THE BARRACUDA THAT IT'S SAFE TO ATTACK NOW!

THERE'S THE SIGNAL, CAP'N BARRACUDA! THAT MEANS THE RADIO HAS BEEN PUT OUT OF COMMISSION!
THEN WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR? LET'S GO!

WHA... WHAT IS THIS?? A GAG?? WHO ARE YOU.. HOW'D YOU GET HERE?
QUIET! I'M THE BARRACUDA! I'LL DO THE TALKING HERE FROM NOW ON!

LINE EVERYBODY UP AGAINST THE RAIL! MOVE, YOU SWABS!
NOW TAKE ALL THE MEN'S WALLETS AND THE WOMEN'S PURSES AND JEWELRY! IF NO ONE RESISTS, NO ONE WILL GET HURT!
IT..IT'S PIRACY!!
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE! HOW DO THEY EXPECT TO GET AWAY WITH IT!

STAND BACK, BUSTER! I DON'T LIKE ANY GUN-TOTING GOONS PAWING ME OR MY CLOTHES!
YOU TALK PRETTY BIG FOR A HELPLESS TEEN-AGER, KID!
I GUESS I'LL JUST TEACH YOU A LESSON YOU'LL NEVER FORGET!

FUNNY THING, LOUDMOUTH! I HAD THE SAME IDEA ABOUT YOU!
A FIREBALL! MELTING MY GUN! IT...IT CAN'T BE!
IT CAN... AND IT IS WISE GUY! YOU PICKED ON THE WRONG VICTIM THIS TIME!

NOW GO TELL YOUR OTHER PLAYMATES THAT THEY'RE GOING TO BE FACING THE HUMAN TORCH IN A COUPLE OF SECONDS! THAT'LL SHAKE 'EM UP A LITTLE!
LEMME OUT OF HERE!

YOU STAY IN THERE, DORIS WHERE YOU'LL BE SAFE, WHILE I SEE WHAT'S GOING ON AROUND HERE!
BE CAREFUL, JOHNNY! DESPITE YOUR POWER, THERE ARE SO MANY OF THEM!

GOOD OL' DORIS! WHEN I START BEING CAREFUL, THAT'LL BE THE DAY!

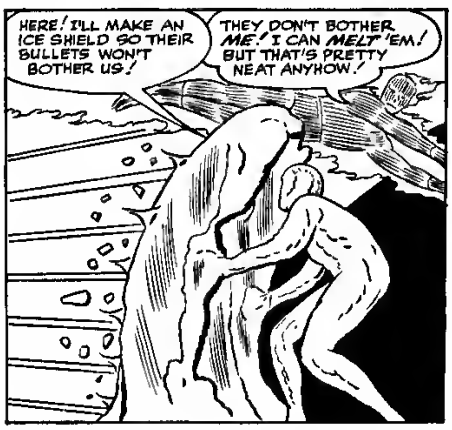
BUT, NOT FAR FROM THE TORCH, ANOTHER TEEN-AGER ALSO CHANGES TO A FAR MORE DRAMATIC IDENTITY, UNSEEN BY PRYING EYES...
LOOKS LIKE THIS TRIP ISN'T GOING TO BE AS DULL AS I FEARED, AFTER ALL!

IF THAT HONEY WAS IMPRESSED BY THE TORCH, JUST WAIT'LL SHE SEES ICEMAN IN ACTION!

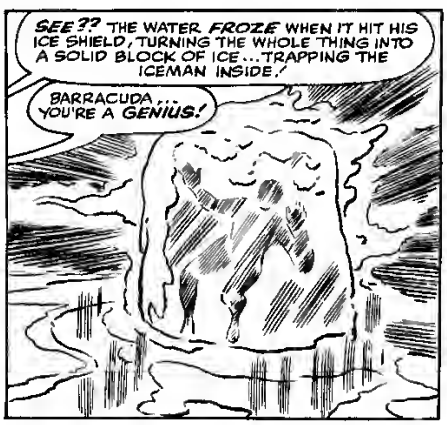
MEANWHILE...
I TELL YOU, CAP'N BARRACUDA, THE NUMAN TORCH IS ON BOARD! YOU'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING! HE'S FIGHTING MAD!!
SILENCE, YOU SNIVELLING COWARD! WE'LL TAKE CARE OF THAT OVER-RATED NUISANCE! BATTLE STATIONS, MEN!

NEY! I THOUGHT BALDY SAID THE TORCH WAS ON BOARD! THIS GUY JUST FROZE MY GUN!
WOW! IT'S THE ICEMAN! WHAT'S HE DOIN' HERE??

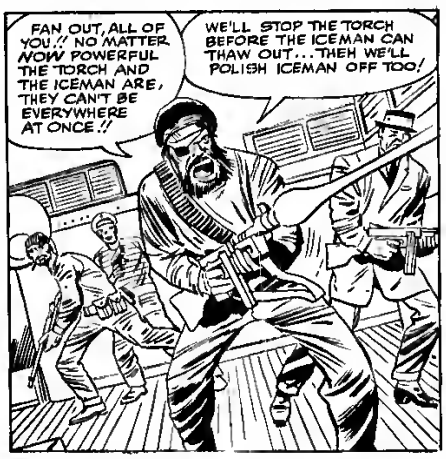
LOOK OUT, TORCH! YOU FLEW TOO CLOSE TO HIM! ...YOU THAWED OUT HIS GUN AGAIN!
SORRY, FELLA! I..I DIDN'T REALIZE...
BRRAPP!


HERE! I'LL MAKE AN ICE SHIELD SO THEIR BULLETS WON'T BOTHER US!
THEY DON'T BOTHER ME! I CAN MELT 'EM! BUT THAT'S PRETTY NEAT ANYHOW!

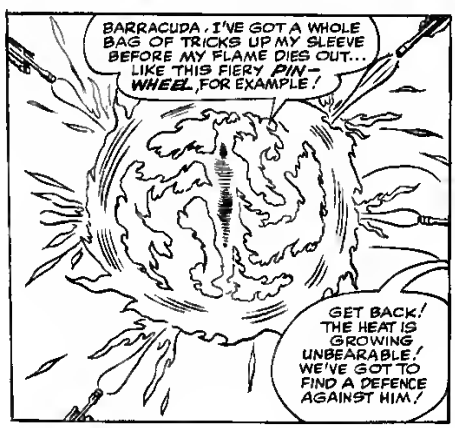
QUICK! TRAIN YOUR FIRE HOSE ON THEM! THAT'S IT!
WHAT GOOD'LL THIS DO AGAINST THE ICEMAN?
DON'T QUESTION ME! DO AS I SAY!


SEE?? THE WATER FROZE WHEN IT HIT HIS ICE SHIELD, TURNING THE WHOLE THING INTO A SOLID BLOCK OF ICE...TRAPPING THE ICEMAN INSIDE!
BARRACUDA... YOU'RE A GENIUS!

DON'T WORRY, ICEMAN! WHATEVER THE BARRACUDA CAN DO I CAN UNDO! THIS CIRCLE OF LOW INTENSITY FLAME WILL THAW YOU OUT IN A FEW MINUTES! AND BY THEN I SHOULD HAVE EVERYTHING UNDER CONTROL!


FAN OUT, ALL OF YOU!! NO MATTER NOW POWERFUL THE TORCH AND THE ICEMAN ARE, THEY CAN'T BE EVERYWHERE AT ONCE!!
WE'LL STOP THE TORCH BEFORE THE ICEMAN CAN THAW OUT...THEN WE'LL POLISH ICEMAN OFF TOO!

BUT WHAT CHANCE DO WE HAVE?? HIS FLAME MELTS OUR BULLETS BEFORE THEY CAN HIT HIM!
YOU FOOL! HIS FLAME WON'T LAST FOREVER! THE MORE HE USES IT, THE FASTER IT BURNS ITSELF OUT! KEEP FIRING!


BARRACUDA! I'VE GOT A WHOLE BAG OF TRICKS UP MY SLEEVE BEFORE MY FLAME DIES OUT... LIKE THIS FIERY PIN-WHEEL, FOR EXAMPLE!
GET BACK! THE HEAT IS GROWING UNBEARABLE! WE'VE GOT TO FIND A DEFENCE AGAINST HIM!

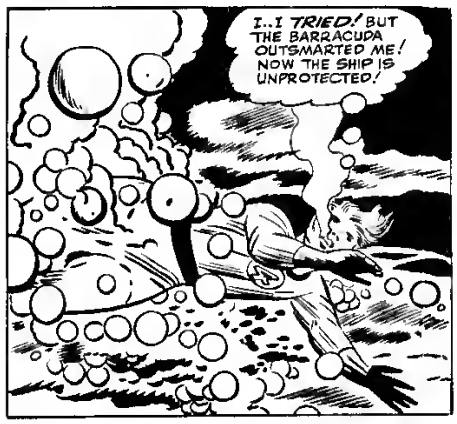
THERE'S JUST WHAT WE NEED! GRAB THAT CANVAS! BRING IT OVER HERE!
MOVE, YOU DOZEY SWABS! WHEN THE BARRACUDA GIVES AN ORDER, EVERYONE JUMPS!

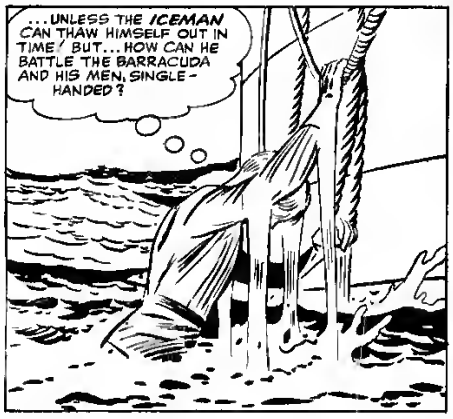
NOW...TOSS IT UP, RIGHT OVER THE TORCH! DON'T MISS! THAT'S IT! YOU DID IT!!!
BUT IT'S NOT AS BESTOS! HE'LL BURN RIGHT THROUGH IT!
SHUT UP AND DO WHAT THE BARRACUDA SAYS! HE KNOWS WHAT HE'S DOING!

NAH! HE BURNED THROUGH THE CANVAS, LIKE I KNEW HE WOULD! BUT LOOK WHAT HAPPENED... THE CANVAS IS ON FIRE!
THE CANVAS FELL TO THE DECK! CAN'T LEAVE IT LIKE THIS... IT'LL PUT THE WHOLE SHIP ABLAZE!

TURNING HIS ATTENTION FROM HIS FOES FOR A MOMENT, THE HUMAN TORCH SEIZES THE LARGE, HEAVY, BLAZING SHEET OF CANVAS AND STARTS TO LUG IT ACROSS THE DECK...
THIS MUST BE WHAT THE BARRACUDA WANTED! ...TO MAKE ME STOP MY ATTACK!!
BUT I'VE GOT NO CHOICE! I CAN'T LET A FIRE START ABOARD SHIP!

THEN, AS THE TORCH LEANS OVER THE RAILING, TO DROP THE BURNING CANVAS...
NOW! THAT'S IT! WE DID IT! WE SHOVED HIM OVER-BOARD!


I..I TRIED! BUT THE BARRACUDA OUTSMARTED ME! NOW THE SHIP IS UNPROTECTED!


...UNLESS THE ICEMAN CAN THAW HIMSELF OUT IN TIME! BUT... HOW CAN HE BATTLE THE BARRACUDA AND HIS MEN, SINGLE-HANDED?

MEANWHILE, BACK ON DECK, A NEW MENACE CONFRONTS THOSE ON BOARD...
FASTER, YOU LUBBERS! DON'T LET THOSE DARNED FLAMES SPREAD!!
IF ONLY WE HADN'T TOSSED THE TORCH OVERBOARD!! HE'S THE ONLY ONE WHO COULD HAVE STOPPED THIS FIRE... BUT HE WON'T BE ABLE TO TILL HE DRIES OFF!

MEANTIME, PANIC SPREADS AMONG PASSENGERS AND PIRATES ALIKE...
YOU'VE GOT TO LET US GO BEFORE THE FLAMES GET OUT OF HAND!
THEY'RE RIGHT! WE'VE GOT TO SAVE OURSELVES, TOO!
BUT THE BARRACUDA WILL HAVE OUR HIDES IF WE DESERT HIM! WHAT'LL WE DO?

AT THAT MOMENT, AT THE OTHER END OF THE DECK, THE ICEMAN FINALLY FREES HIMSELF AND PREPARES FOR ACTION!
THE TORCH'LL BE HELPLESS TILL HE CAN FLAME ON AGAIN... SO IT'S UP TO ME!
MY FIRST PROBLEM IS TO DOUSE THAT FIRE WHILE IT'S STILL IN ONE AREA! I'LL NEED A FEW GIANT SNOWBALLS FOR THAT...!!

RIGHT DOWN THIS OL' ALLEY!!
BARRACUDA! IT'S THE ICEMAN! HE'S FREE AGAIN!

WITHIN SECONDS, THE OVER-SIZED SNOWBALLS LAND ON THE FLAMING AREA OF THE DECK AND MELT OVER THE BLAZE, EXTINGUISHING IT!
I DID IT! THE FIRE IS OUT!

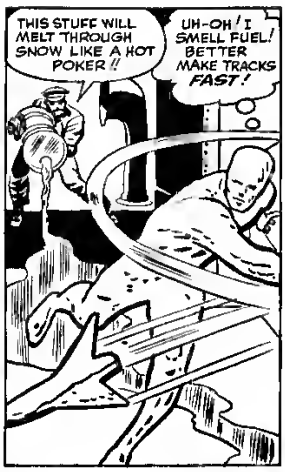
BUT I CAN USE MY ROLLING SNOWBALLS FOR MORE THAN FIREFIGHTING! THEY ALSO MAKE GREAT "PIRATE-SMASHERS"!!
WHUMP!

DROP THAT GUN, MISTER! YOU WON'T NEED IT WHERE YOU'RE GOING!
SPAT!

FRANTICALLY, THE DESPERATE MAN REACHES DOWN, TRYING TO RETRIEVE HIS FALLEN WEAPON, WHEN...
HE HIT MY HAND WITH ANOTHER SNOWBALL!!
IT FROZE ON CONTACT! IT'S STUCK TO THE DECK! I-I CAN'T PULL MY HAND LOOSE!

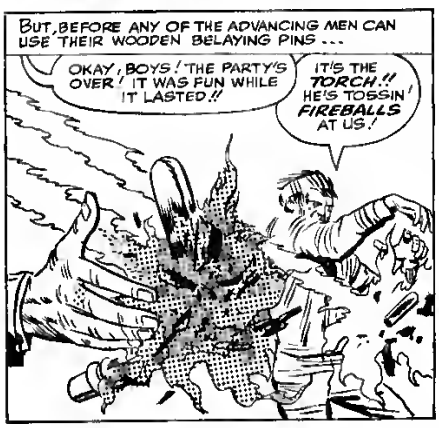
MY FOOT! THAT BLOOMING FROZEN FREAK STUCK IT TO THE DECK!! I CAN'T PULL AWAY!!
WE CAN'T FIGHT HIM WITH ORDINARY WEAPONS! I'VE GOT AN IDEA!

KEEP GUARD IN CASE THE TORCH ATTACKS AGAIN! MEANTIME, I'LL GRAB ONE OF THOSE PETROL DRUMS!


THIS STUFF WILL MELT THROUGH SNOW LIKE A HOT POKER!!
UH-OH! I SMELL FUEL! BETTER MAKE TRACKS FAST!

OWWW! THAT GAS MELTED THE ICE SO FAST THAT IT BURNED MY FOOT!! I'VE GOT TO STAY OUT OF THEIR WAY TILL I THINK OF SOMETHING ELSE!

HURRY! GET THE ICEMAN WHILE HE'S OFF BALANCE! MOVE, YOU SWABS!
WE'LL TEACH HIM TO STICK HIS NOSE INTO OUR BUSINESS!!


BUT, BEFORE ANY OF THE ADVANCING MEN CAN USE THEIR WOODEN BELAYING PINS ...
OKAY, BOYS! THE PARTY'S OVER! IT WAS FUN WHILE IT LASTED!!
IT'S THE TORCH!! HE'S TOSSIN' FIREBALLS AT US!

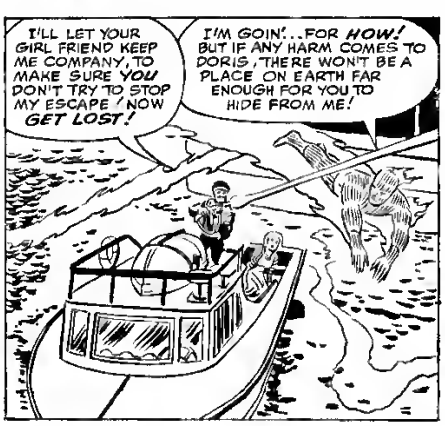
LOOK!! HE'S PERCHED ATOP THAT SMOKE-STACK!
WELL, WHAT BIG EYES YOU HAVE, GRANDMA! DIDN'T THINK I'D FIND A WAY TO DRY OFF SO FAST, DID YOU? THIS HOT CHIMNEY IS JUST WHAT THE DOCTOR ORDERED!

AND NOW, SO THAT YOU WON'T THINK I'M NEGLECTING YOU, I'LL WHIP UP A LITTLE FLAMING LASSO FOR YOU TO PLAY WITH!!
D-DON'T JUST STAND THERE!! STOP HIM!!
STOP HIM??? HOW??!

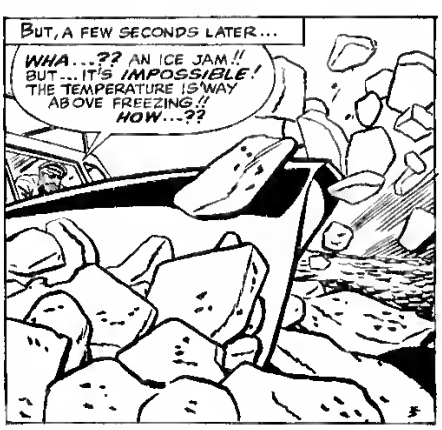
THERE! AS LONG AS YOU REMAIN IN THE CENTRE OF THE CIRCLE, YOU WON'T BE HURT!
AND NOW THAT YOU'RE TAKEN CARE OF, I'LL CONCENTRATE ON THE REST OF YOUR PLAYMATES!

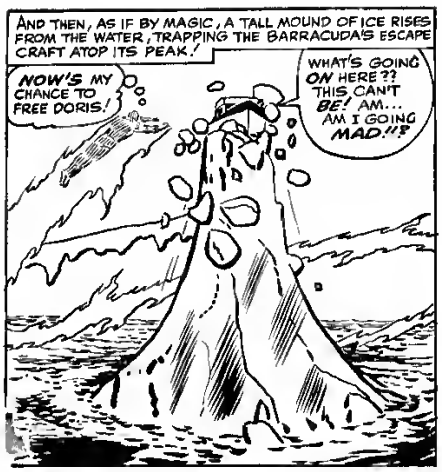
DID YOU HEAR THAT?? THE TORCH IS COMIN' AFTER US NEXT! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!!
OH NO, YOU DON'T! NOW IT'S OUR TURN! GRAB THOSE GUYS!
YOU'RE NOT SO TOUGH WHEN THE ODDS ARE AGAINST YOU, EH?

THANKS TO THOSE ANGRY KIDS, THE BARRACUDA IS THE ONLY ONE LEFT! UH-OH! HE'S GOT DORIS!!
BACK, TORCH!! THE BARRACUDA HAS THE WINNING CARD NOW!

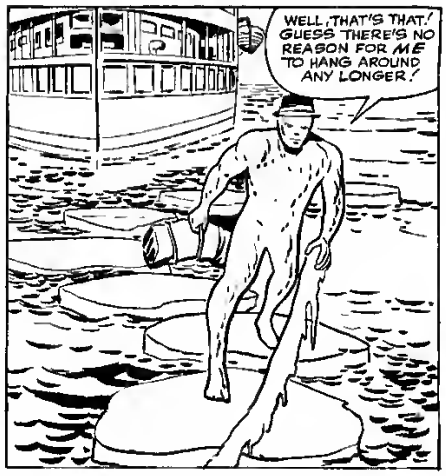

I'LL LET YOUR GIRL FRIEND KEEP ME COMPANY, TO MAKE SURE YOU DON'T TRY TO STOP MY ESCAPE! NOW GET LOST!
I'M GOIN'... FOR HOW! BUT IF ANY HARM COMES TO DORIS, THERE WON'T BE A PLACE ON EARTH FAR ENOUGH FOR YOU TO HIDE FROM ME!

HA, HA HA! A VERY DRAMATIC EXIT SPEECH, TORCH! BUT THE FACT REMAINS THAT THE BARRACUDA IS THE ONLY MAN EVER TO BEAT BOTH THE TORCH AND THE ICEMAN!


BUT, A FEW SECONDS LATER...
WHA...?? AN ICE JAM!! BUT... IT'S IMPOSSIBLE! THE TEMPERATURE IS WAY ABOVE FREEZING!! HOW...??


AND THEN, AS IF BY MAGIC, A TALL MOUND OF ICE RISES FROM THE WATER, TRAPPING THE BARRACUDA'S ESCAPE CRAFT ATOP ITS PEAK!
NOW'S MY CHANCE TO FREE DORIS!
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?? THIS CAN'T BE! AM... AM I GOING MAD!!?

HE..HE GOT THE GIRL!! WAIT! COME BACK! DON'T LEAVE ME ALONE UP HERE! WAIT!
OH, JOHNNY! WHAT IS IT?? HOW DID THIS HAPPEN??
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN OUR FROZEN FRIEND, THE ICEMAN?? HE'S A MIGHTY HANDY FELLA TO HAVE AROUND IN A PINCH!!
DON'T WORRY, BARRACUDA! YOU WON'T BE ALONE FOR LONG! I'LL SEND A POLICE LAUNCH BACK FOR YOU REAL SOON!


WELL, THAT'S THAT! GUESS THERE'S NO REASON FOR ME TO HANG AROUND ANY LONGER!

THE FIRE'S OUT!...THE PIRATES ARE ALL CAUGHT.. AND ALL THOSE GUYS AND THEIR DATES WILL HAVE SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT FOR MONTHS!
AS FOR ME, I'LL JUST MAKE AN ICY FLOATING PATH FOR MYSELF AND WALK TO SHORE! IT'S TIME I WAS RETURNING TO THE X-MEN!

A SHORT TIME LATER...
I'VE SEARCHED THE WHOLE SHIP, DORIS! LOOKS LIKE THE ICEMAN JUST VANISHED!!

TOO BAD HE AND THE REST OF THE X-MEN ZEALOUSLY GUARD THEIR SECRET IDENTITIES! HE'S ONE FELLA I'D SURE LIKE TO GET TO KNOW A LOT BETTER!
I WONDER? WOULDN'T IT BE SOMETHING IF WE STOOD FACE TO FACE WITH HIM AND DIDN'T EVEN SUSPECT WHO HE WAS??!

DO YOU THINK HE HAS A GIRL FRIEND, JOHNNY?
A GUY LIKE HIM? SURE! HE MUST HAVE A DOZEN OF THEM! THAT REMINDS ME, HONEY! THERE'S A BIG BEAUTIFUL MOON UP THERE, AND THE NIGHT IS STILL YOUNG!
The End

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